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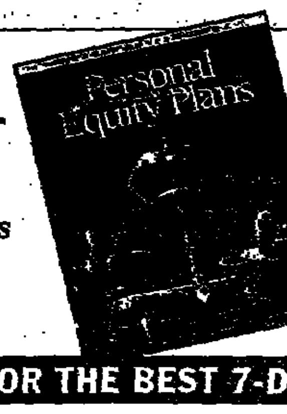

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£18bn Bill Gates poised to become the richest man in history

Gates: doubled fortune

By Quentin Letts in New York and Mark Henderson

BILL GATES, the American computer entrepreneur, last year doubled his fortune to $29 billion (£18 billion) on the back of a stampeding bull market, setting him well on the road to becoming the greatest human wealth accumulator in the world — ever.

Mr Gates, 41, the former computer nerd who in 1975 dropped out of college to co-found Microsoft, benefited from a rampaging American stock market which this week broke another of its own, vertigo-inducing records. To heady cheers around Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average broke through the 7,000 mark.

The latest rise on the New York Stock Exchange has been unprecedentedly swift. It took only four months for the Dow Jones — which did not break through the 3,000 barrier until 1991 — to rise 1,000 points.

In the past year, Mr Gates has seen his wealth increase by $42.5 million (£26.5 million) a day. When he gets up in the morning, he is effectively $20 million richer than he was when he went to sleep. Nor is he alone in such good fortune. Warren Buffet, the stock market player, "made" some $7 billion last year, while Mr Gates's Microsoft partner, Paul Allen, is $6.4 billion better off than he was 12 months ago.

Phil Knight, of the sports shoe company Nike, gained $3 billion; the Bronfman family coffers swelled by $2.5 billion, and even small fry such as Michael Eisner, chief executive of Disney, has achieved paper gains of $50 million in the last six weeks alone.

The current cascade of gold in America can hardly be overstated and the greatest beneficiaries, in their wealth, now outmatch the greatest plutocrats of history. The medieval Medicis never had it as good, nor did the empire builders of 19th century Britain or even earlier generations of American rich men.

Along the smarter boulevards of Manhattan last year, a man needed $50 million to be considered handily well off. Today that figure is generally put at $85 million — and rising.

Computer stock has been especially buoyant, going through what market analysts term a "super cycle", in which entrepreneurs can find themselves $50 million richer overnight. When the great railroad builder Cornelius Vanderbilt died in 1877 he left a mere $100 million — $4.3 billion today — and the banker JP Morgan left only $50 million when he died in 1913.

Their names still evoke unimaginable wealth, but in reality they were mere bootblacks compared to the likes of Messrs Gates and Buffet. Only the legendary oilman, John D Rockefeller, outstripped their wealth with a $855 million fortune which would be worth a massive $38 billion

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Morgan: left $50 million

Target the young, say NHS advisers

Birth control urged for 11-year-olds

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

CHILDREN as young as 11 should be offered free condoms and advice on sex to reduce Britain's high rate of teenage pregnancies, according to a key Government advisory body on health research.

In the most authoritative review of research on sex among teenagers, including those below the age of consent, the controversial report by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination says that school-based sex education supported by clinics providing contraceptives is the best way of preventing teenage pregnancies.

The disclosure provoked anger last night from Conservative MPs and organisations promoting the family.

Dame Angela Rumbold, Tory MP for Mitcham and Morden, said: "Surely these groups have better things to do than give this sort of advice. I am certain that this is a matter for parents and it should be left to parents to decide the age at which these issues should be addressed. It is difficult to set an age but it certainly should not be at the age of 11."

However, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Whether you should hand out free condoms to all secondary school pupils may be going a stage too far. But it is absolutely right that sex education should be given to pupils before they are sexually active from 11 onwards. If you can catch teenagers before they are sexually active you have a better chance of preventing pregnancies later on."

Over 55,000 copies of its latest *Effective Health Care Bulletin*, a review of research which advises on best practice in controversial areas, will be distributed on Monday to doctors, NHS managers, local education authorities, social work agencies and family planning clinics.

The bulletin says that young people must be targeted before they become sexually active because it is much harder to change their sexual and contraceptive behaviour later. Research shows high levels of ignorance about sex and contraception, especially among boys aged 12 to 14.

A spokesman for the centre, which receives over £1 million in funding from the health department, said yesterday: "A lot of what happens sexually between young people is based on their ignorance. The younger sex education starts the better. That means children in the last year of primary school and the first year of secondary school should be targeted."

Britain's pregnancy rate among 15-19 year olds is the highest in Europe. The Government has set a target under the "Health of the Nation" strategy of halving the pregnancy rate in under 16-year-olds by 2000, but progress has been slow. Although the rate has fallen since 1990, in 1994 it was still 8.3 per 1,000, the same level as a decade earlier.

The health bulletin says that sexual abstinence programmes, which try to persuade young people to postpone sex until they are married, do not work. They neither delay sexual activity nor reduce pregnancy. However, programmes which combine sex education with access to contraceptive services do reduce pregnancies and do not increase sexual activity.

The bulletin's findings are based on a review of 42 studies of teenage pregnancy, most conducted in America. Many other studies were considered and rejected because they were of poor quality. The spokesman for the centre said its role was to inform decision makers of current research findings, not to make policy.

The bulletin points out that the cost of providing contraceptive and counselling services is far lower than the health and social costs of unplanned pregnancy.

"In order to attract young people to use services they must be well advertised, easily accessed outside school hours and — for under 16-year-olds — confidential," it says.

Valerie Riches, director of Family and Youth Concern, said the reports conclusions were "quite alarming".

"Sex education should help young people to see the reasons why they should abstain from intercourse," she said. "There is a danger in preaching to all and sundry when only a minority are doing it or would contemplate it."

She said the report's authors had been selective in the research they had chosen to highlight and were acting as a mouthpiece for the liberal wing of the health education lobby.

"Why is it, if sex education is so effective, that younger and younger people are engaging in sex?" she asked. "The age should be going up, not down. And why is there a massive increase in the use of the morning after pill? That shows sex education is failing."

MICHAEL POWELL

God Save the Queen will make a comeback at today's rugby game in Dublin

Irish reject minute's silence

By Nicholas Watt, chief Ireland correspondent

PEACE campaigners reacted furiously after rugby's governing body in Ireland rejected a request to hold a minute's silence before today's match against England in memory of the soldier murdered this week by the IRA.

The STOP peace group, which campaigns against terrorist violence, accused the Irish Rugby Football Union of throwing away a great opportunity to send a message of reconciliation from Dublin to Britain.

The group said that a tribute to Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick would have been particularly poignant today because *God Save the Queen* will be played at Lansdowne Road for the first time before a rugby match.

Chris Hudson, of the Dublin-based STOP group, said: "The playing of the British anthem presented an ideal occasion to mark our respect for Stephen and to mark reconciliation between our two people."

STOP will pay its own tribute to L/Bdr Restorick this afternoon by flying a plane over Lansdowne Road trailing a banner with the words "Ceasefire Now". The group is also calling on people to leave flowers in memory of the murdered soldier outside the nearby British Embassy.

The Irish rugby union said last night that it had turned down STOP's request for a minute's silence because it did not want to enter the political arena.

The row in Dublin came as the woman who witnessed the shooting of L/Bdr Restorick accepted an invitation from the soldier's parents to attend his funeral in England next week. Lorraine McElroy, who was injured by the same bullet which killed the soldier in Bessbrook, Co Armagh, will stay with Rita and John Restorick in Peterborough.

Mrs McElroy, 35, who is married with two young children and who will travel to England with her husband, said she was honoured to have been invited. She added: "Mrs Restorick asked me in the most heartfelt manner if I would please go to her son's funeral."

Match preview, page 52

Outrage over Lawrence case 'trial by media'

By Lin Jenkins, Richard Duce and Kathryn Knigh

LAWYERS acting for five men named by the *Daily Mail* as murderers of black teenager Stephen Lawrence said yesterday they were outraged.

But amid a furore over allegations of trial by media, the Lawrence family welcomed the newspapers' decision to name those acquitted of his killing and its challenge to them to sue if they are innocent.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said: "The *Daily Mail* haven't done anything against the law, unless of course these men claim that the piece has been defamatory and that's a matter for them."

However, legal experts and Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative backbench media committee, said the newspaper had "acted as judge and jury".

The five accused by the newspaper, Gary Dobson, 21, Luke Knight, 20, David Norris 20, and brothers Neil Acourt, 21, and Jamie Acourt, 19, yesterday saw their lawyers. Mr Norris and Jamie Acourt were discharged during com mittal proceedings in Decem ber 1993. Neil Acourt and M Knight were acquitted of mu der and Mr Dobson wa acquitted of unlawful killing

Mr Gale said: "I think th is tabloid journalism at i

Continued on page 2, col

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Dead boy's fathe worked for edito

Paul Dacre, the Editor of th Daily Mail, has taken personal interest in the Law rence case. He employed St phen's father Neville aroun a decade ago to do som plastering work on his hom in Islington, north London.

When the newspaper fir pursued the story Mr Law rence said he telephoned M Dacre to seek assurances tha the case would be treate sympathetically.

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WI backs the strippers in spite of vicar's protest

By Alan Hamilton

STRIPPERS and blue comedians will be welcome in the village hall at Shotley, near Ipswich, Suffolk, thanks to support from the Women's Institute and other users who have outvoted the objections of the local vicar.

The question of adult entertainment was put to the vote after a ribald and noisy evening of male amusement staged by the village football club disturbed parish councillors holding their monthly meeting in the next room. Such was the offensive disturbance that the Rev Robin Spittle, the vicar of Shotley, and one other councillor walked out of the meeting.

Their protests at the riotous laughter and disgusting jokes filtering through the wall forced the village hall management committee to ask all the building's users whether they wanted the salacious evenings to continue. By a majority, they did.

The WI, displaying an unexpected streak of libertarian democracy, voted in favour. So did other hall users, including the local branch of the Royal British Legion, the Over 60s Club, the carpet bowls, outdoor bowls and football clubs, the community council and the drama group.

Mr Spittle said he objected to the strip shows and vulgar comedians on moral grounds. However, Carol Wilkins, 56, the WI representative, said yesterday that 25 of her members had voted to allow strip nights, and only five had objected.

"We are certainly not staid in this village. You won't catch us crocheting or making marmalade. We are just a bunch of friendly ladies who enjoy meeting up, but I don't think any of these members will want to go to these evenings themselves," she said. Her husband Graham, the chairman of the village hall management committee, said that the strip shows should continue, but it would be a condition that clubs staging them should book the entire hall so that no other groups would be there.

Councillor Clare Sullivan, an Ipswich schoolteacher, who objected to the decision to allow the shows, said that she was nonetheless pleased that the community had been consulted. She was at the council meeting in the next room last December when she and the vicar were forced to leave.

"From my seat I had to listen to every word. The whole flavour of the evening was men having a jolly good time at the expense of women, who were excluded," she said.

The Shotley Rose Football Club, perpetrators of the original offence, have now promised to hold a ladies' night, with plenty of offensive jokes about men.

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Details on Monday

BALLOT 97
Your essential guide to the key election issues
On Monday: higher education

Online debate means election is virtually under way

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

THE general election campaign was launched on the Internet in the House of Commons yesterday. Ministers, Labour frontbenchers and MPs have signed up to a new *Politician's Forum* which allows voters to question them from the comfort of their own homes.

The forum aims to bring a new dimension to a political question time. But while MPs yesterday were able to view a pilot of the service, anyone wishing to engage in a sparring match with a politician must wait until Monday to debate future transport policy and the British constitution.

The forum has been devised by UK Citizens Online Democracy — a non-partisan and non-profitmaking company funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust — to see if the Internet has any influence on politics.

Some political experts believe that the impact of the Internet could swing votes in marginal constituencies in this year's election. *Politician's Forum* will run throughout the election campaign. Towards polling day a live radio phone-in is being planned to link up politicians and voters who have debated on-line.

Douglas Henderson, a Labour frontbencher, who will give his party's case about the constitution, said last night: "It will be rather like taking part in a football match without a referee. But as a party we are taking this very seriously. People will have direct access to us."

Nigel Evans, the Tory MP for Ribble Valley, will also debate the constitution. He is one of the few Tory MPs to have mastered the Internet. "This is the perfect way to get into someone's home and put ideas across. It is also a good way of contacting young people."

Irving Rapperport, director and founder of UKCOD, said last night: "We know that some five per cent of the population are connected to the Internet — some two million people. Who knows, there really could be a significant voice out there who could determine the outcome in up to ten marginal seats?" Anyone wishing to take part in the debates should access the World Wide Web (on: http://www.democracy.org.uk/polforum/).

In a separate move schoolchildren are also being urged to use the Internet to cast their election votes. The Hansard Society, with with BBC's *Newsround*, is organising a general election for schools. Leading politicians will take part in the debates and Peter Snow, the BBC's political commentator, will analyse the results as they come in from schools around the country.

'Day after day shows more prosperity'

Blair is scared of waiting until May, says Major

By Andrew Pierce and Jill Sherman

JOHN MAJOR attempted to turn the tables on Tony Blair yesterday, by accusing him of trying to trigger an early election in fear that the improving economy would deliver victory to the Tories in May.

It also emerged that the Prime Minister is preparing for a five to six week election campaign, which would probably be announced at the Central Council meeting in Bath on March 14. Senior party sources said it would take about five days to agree to get the legislation sorted out between the main parties before Parliament was dissolved. The official campaign would then be launched, leading up to an election on May 1.

Mr Major has already signalled his own appetite for a long campaign, and party strategists now admit that this may be the only way to start bringing down Labour's lead in the polls. The Prime Minister, speaking at the Welsh Tory Party conference in Mostyn, mocked Mr Blair as a man in a hurry: "Labour want an early election because they don't want people to see what is happening in our economy. Day after day shows growth and prosperity."

There was a feeling that the difficult and unpopular decisions taken by the Government were now bearing fruit, he said. Economic prospects where the "best in living memory of most people."

Mr Major used his speech, the first in a series of set-piece rallies, to unveil the central themes of his campaign: Europe, the constitution, the economy and Labour's fitness to govern. He contrasted his upbringing and lifestyle with Mr Blair's.

Scorning Mr Blair's commitment to reform the constitution in the first year of government, he said that the proposals to abolish the House of Lords might cause excitement among the "Chianti-swilling classes of Islingtonia, but it is not what they want to hear in the Little Chef." He drew loud laughs when he declared he had received a wonderful Valentine card saying: "Everything I stand for, Everything I believe in, I owe to you." It was signed Tony Blair, he said.

Mr Major also confronted the danger he has identified as the greatest risk to the survival of his Government: the "it's time for change" argument. He said: "They pedal misery and gloom to persuade people that it's time for a change. But it won't work. Britain has a smile on its face. Our win will broaden that smile."

On the constitution, he said that plans for a Scottish tax-raising parliament and Welsh assembly will fracture the union: "Our nation's heritage, our culture. Our sense of identity and willingness to share institutions and governments. These things are a precious legacy. They cannot be created overnight. They take generations.

"Once you set Wales against the north-east of England, Scotland against Wales, the south-west against the Marches, the strength of Britain will be sapped, our national purpose undermined. So long as I am prime minister, I will not let it happen."

Mr Blair derided the main thrust of Mr Major's assault on Labour's constitutional programme, claiming that "the idea that the British constitution should never change and evolve and develop is completely absurd." The Tories were running away from an election "and it's not as if they're doing anything in government."

As parliament prepares to debate the censure motion over the handling of the BSE crisis by Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, Labour seized on the Government's refusal to put down a motion of its own, praising the minister, as is usual when an opposition party tables a motion critical of the government. Tory strategists said that Labour's motion was a "stunt that merited no response".

Major holds a Valentine card from Welsh Conservatives

Labour says more firms would pay windfall

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

LABOUR is preparing legislation to broaden the scope of the proposed windfall tax to more privatised utilities, it emerged yesterday. It wants to make large companies beyond the water and electricity industries liable to the tax, which is expected to raise between £3 billion and £10 billion.

British Gas, BT, Railtrack, Associated British Ports and BAA, the airports authority, would be covered by enabling legislation listing the statutes affected by the tax change. BA, formerly British Airways, is not covered in the legislation, which would be introduced within the first six weeks of a Labour government.

Labour made clear that, although the legislation would enable the Government to tax any of the companies, it did not mean that they would automatically have the levy imposed. The success of regulation, degree of monopoly and the scale of profits would be considered first.

A utilities analyst at stockbroker SGST said the move could reduce the impact of the tax on the water and electricity industries. "If it were extended to the likes of BAA, BT and Railtrack it would dilute the effect for the water and electricity companies."

Labour responded to criticism by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, of the possible taxing of British Gas by making clear that the party intended to introduce a single energy industry regulator to replace separate posts for electricity and gas.

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Furore at 'murder trial by media'

absolute worst. We have a judicial system in this country and for all its faults, it has stood the test of time."

Nigel Pascoe, QC, chairman of the Bar Council public affairs committee, said: "Whatever the failure of investigation or the lack of evidence, it is not for the press to act as judge and jury."

The Lawrence family said the newspaper's action exposed the defects in the criminal justice system which has failed to see a successful prosecution. Lawyers acting for the family are planning to bring a civil action against the five men.

Imran Khan, the Lawrence's solicitor, said: "Mrs Lawrence was pleased because here is a national newspaper which is taking steps which no other organisation has done."

Peter Wright, the *Mail's* deputy editor, said: "We thought very carefully about it, and it was not an approach we took lightly, but we believe the seriousness of the case and the issues it raises demands this sort of approach."

He said that Mrs Lawrence's unhappiness with the case, the failure of witnesses to cooperate and the arrogance of the five men to answer questions at the inquest had been the reason behind the decision.

Mr Dobson refused to leave his home, just yards from the bus stop where Stephen was stabbed to death almost four years ago. Michael Holmes, Mr Dobson's solicitor, said: "I have a sense of outrage about the article. My client insists he is innocent, and always has done."

Earlier, Mr Dobson had emerged briefly to swear at reporters before retreating into the semi-detached house in Eltham, south-east London.

The four other men were not at home.

The Press Complaints Com-

Brown promises a million: no increase in income tax

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN sent personalised letters to one million households in marginal seats yesterday pledging that Labour would not raise income tax.

The mail-out coincided with a new poster launched and signed by Tony Blair which bears the same message — that a Labour government would not raise income tax in the lifetime of a Parliament.

The poster features a picture of Mr Blair beside the slogan "Labour's five-year tax pledge: no increase in income tax rates." The joint offensive follows signs in some of the polls that Labour has yet to convince voters that it will not put up taxes.

The letter from the Shadow Chancellor says that the basic rate and top rate of tax would remain untouched at 23p and 40p, and that he would also move to a starting rate of 10p. He also confirms that Labour would reduce VAT on fuel from 8 per cent to 5 per cent and gives a pledge not to extend VAT in certain areas, such as food, children's clothes, books and newspapers.

He adds: "There is much to be done in Britain but new Labour will not make promises which it cannot keep. Just as you would not spend money that you do not have, I will not make spending commitments which I cannot pay."

Mr Brown sets out Labour's only spending pledges: smaller class sizes, cutting waiting lists and getting more young people into work.

Chief Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave insisted that the Labour leadership had now signalled tax increases in other areas. "Tony Blair's poster launch lets the cat out of the bag," he said.

"The implication is absolutely clear: that Labour would start to pay for its £30 billion of spending pledges by cuts in allowances."

The two Labour initiatives coincided with the launch of a free-sheet Labour newspaper, *The Rose*, which again spells out the tax message. It also warns voters against letting the Tories in by voting Liberal Democrat. A lighter article lists "20 things you did not know about Tony Blair", including that his favourite meal is fish and chips, he gave up smoking on his wedding day and he is "a mimic who takes off most of the Cabinet".

☐ The TUC yesterday launched a £1 million advertising campaign to convince workers to use their votes in the coming election to win greater employment rights. The campaign, funded by many of the major trade unions, includes a cinema advertisement aimed at younger workers.

Prison Service fails to fill boot camp

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE second boot camp for young offenders will be only a third full when it opens next week. The Prison Service has been able to find only between eight and 12 suitable candidates for the 32 places to endure the strict discipline of at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester, Essex.

The boot camp at the Army's "glasshouse" opens on Thursday with a group of offenders who pose no threat to the public and are unlikely to want to escape from a tough, spartan regime of drill and training. The selection process shows that thousands of the toughest young criminals aged 17-21 will not be [illegible] for the Government's not be a danger to the public. They must also be suitable for open prison conditions, which means trusted to live in premises without a perimeter fence or wall.

Up to 300 Army, Royal Navy and RAF offenders can be held at the centre for crimes including theft and drug dealing. The young offenders sent to the camp will sleep in a separate building and only mix with servicemen during education classes and in workshops. The civilians will not wear military uniforms and there will be no rank structure.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "It is a

Gates riches

Continued from page 1

today, and at 41, Mr Gates is well placed to better that. Statistical comparison is not easy, but even such a legendary moneybags as Jakob Fugger, the 16th century German banker to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V — who was known as Jakob the Rich for his pile — probably shrinks alongside the fortunes of late 20th century America.

Leland Montgomery, investing editor of *Worth*, the Manhattan magazine which monitors America's burgeoning billionaires, said yesterday: "Bill Gates's ability to accumulate wealth is unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the great thing is that he is being cheered on by ordinary Americans.

"Before the Nineties there was a backlash in America against excessive corporate rewards, but now people respond with enthusiasm to the

Briton 'was killed over her anti-fascist sticker'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BRITISH woman living in Germany was savagely murdered by neo-fascists angered by a "Nazis Out" sticker on her rucksack. Patricia Wright, 23, was handcuffed, raped, beaten and choked before dying of multiple stab wounds, a court in Essen was told.

Miss Wright had met Thomas Lemke, by chance at a railway station and given him her address. Six months later Mr Lemke, 27, arrived at her flat in Bergisch-Gladbach, near Cologne, with a pump-action shotgun hidden beneath his coat, the prosecution alleges.

When Miss Wright gave him a glass of milk he pushed the gun in her face, handcuffed her and raped her on her bed. Then, helped by an accomplice, he strangled her with a bootlace, and battered her with a heavy lump of pottery before stabbing her 91 times in the back with a flick knife.

Mr Lemke told police that the sticker marked Miss Wright as an "inferior being" whose life was worthless. Miss Wright's father Michael Wright, 50, who had travelled from his home in Dulwich in southeast London, for the case, buried his head in his hands as he heard how his daughter died.

Thomas Lemke hiding his face as he arrives at court

"I've read the files but I had to be here to see the brute who killed her," he said. "Just reading the evidence is enough to send a chill down my spine.

"I know Patsy's flat and I can see the scene in my mind. Lemke was screaming at her 'You Bosnian whore' — probably she had a sticker or badge somewhere to protest about the treatment of refugees.

"Just like my little Patsy — she had dozens of these badges. She was so young and innocent, full of ideals. The whole time she didn't say a word. She suffered from asthma — as a child I used to carry her in my arms into the garden when she had an attack.

"Perhaps the shock caused another attack. My little girl must have been too terrified to even open her mouth. It's all so horrible.

"The funeral cost me more than £4,000 and my ex-wife and I wrote to the Germans asking for financial assistance. They sent back a cold, official letter saying we might qualify for about £220.

"We were sickened. We agreed they could keep it. We had no other letters from anybody in the Government to say how sorry they were or any expression of sympathy."

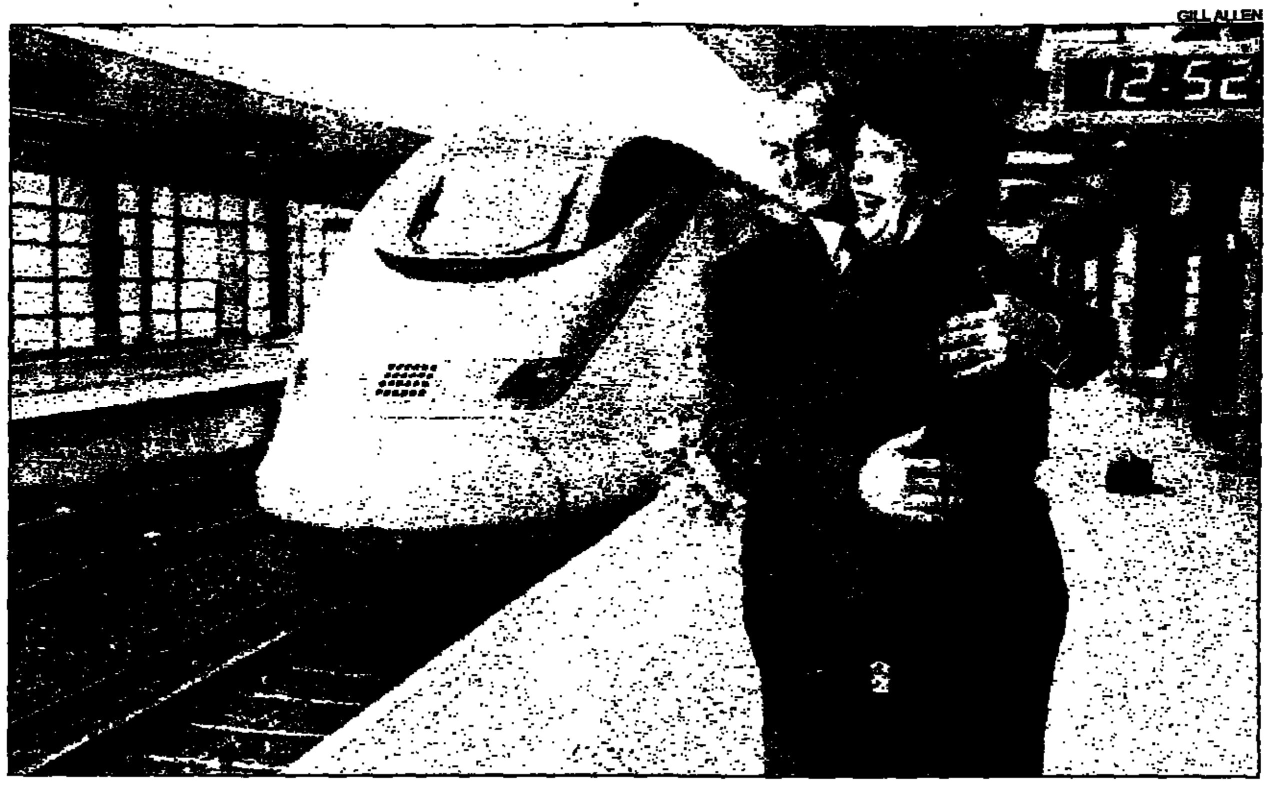
The court heard that Mr Lemke killed a 26-year-old fellow neo-Nazi fearing that he was a police informer, and was also responsible for the murder of a young German woman. There were gasps in the public gallery as the prosecution described how Dagmar Kohlmann, 25, came to die in July 1995 after being bundled into a car boot and driven to a wood.

Then Mr Lemke led her to a spot where he dug a shallow grave. First he tried to strangle his victim. He is alleged to have then smashed her skull with the spade before burying her.

When police raided his flat they uncovered an arsenal and found photographs of Mr Lemke on "military exercises" with other neo-fascists. Hans-Christian Gutjahr, prosecuting, said: "In jail Lemke has shown no remorse. He says his victims were 'human dregs'."

A second neo-Nazi, Marcel Muethring, is charged with complicity in Miss Wright's murder. He is alleged to have helped strangle her with the bootlace. The trial resumes next week.

GILL ALLEN



Marriage lines begin for Euro tunnel of love

A COUPLE celebrated a new station in life yesterday as they became the first to marry in the first-class Eurostar waiting room at Ashford, Kent (Jonathan Prynn writes). Barry Cooke and Yvonne McMeel swore their vows with the station's manager as a witness, then posed for this wedding photograph before boarding a train — with tickets bought using vouchers in *The Times* — for a honeymoon in Paris.

The waiting room was granted a wedding licence last year. The Valentine bride, a 44-year-old manager of an old people's home, said: "Barry wanted to get married in the tunnel on board the train, but when I rang I found they did the next best thing."

She met her future husband when she moved into a house on his milk round in Watford. Mr Cooke, 50, who has two adult sons from a previous marriage, said: "She stuck a note outside her door asking for bacon and milk, and it really all started from there."

Eurostar staff presented the couple with a red, heart-shaped wedding cake. Theresa Smith, the station manager, said they had received many requests from couples wishing to marry aboard trains, but this had not been possible. The waiting room — officially known as the VIP lounge — was the next best thing.

"I think it's a very romantic setting," she said. "More weddings are booked in the next few months." A Eurostar spokesman said the weekend was one of their busiest, with all trains fully booked.

Grobbelaar saves lost him £125,000, jurors are told

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

JURORS trying match-rigging allegations against Bruce Grobbelaar yesterday scrutinised his goalkeeping in a 3-3 draw between Liverpool and Manchester United recorded on video.

Mr Grobbelaar, 39, listened intently as the commentator praised his performance in the match at Anfield in January 1994. But Winchester Crown Court was told that in a secretly-filmed discussion between Mr Grobbelaar and Christopher Vincent, a prosecution witness, the goalkeeper referred to the game and said he lost £125,000 after instinctively making two good saves.

On the video, the commentator shouted "wonderful save by Bruce Grobbelaar" and "great save from Bruce" after he saved goal-bound shots from Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane of Manchester United.

Rodney Klevan, QC, for the defence, asked Mr Grobbelaar if he had been proud of his performance. Mr Grobbelaar replied: "Yes, I was."

Asked which save he was most proud of, he said: "Both of them. Giggs turned one way and hit a tremendous shot. Keane's was in a very, very hard area where goalkeepers are prone to let goals in — down by their feet."

The jury also saw a brief extract in which an unsmiling Bruce Grobbelaar was seen being congratulated by team mate Neil Ruddock at the end of the game. David Calvert Smith, for the prosecution, asked: "Is that the face of a man who lost a lot of money?" Mr Grobbelaar replied: "That's the face of a person who let in three goals against our biggest rivals."

He was asked about the videotape of a conversation with Mr Vincent in which he said he had accidentally dived the wrong way.

He said: "I was intending to save them and I went the right way." "Did you intend to sell your team short in any of those games?" Mr Klevan asked. Mr Grobbelaar said: "I never sold my team short, ever."

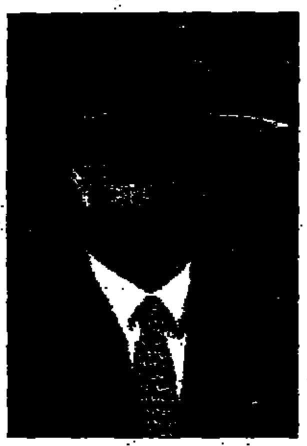
He told the court he had deliberately strung Mr Vincent along, in order to report him to the authorities. "I wanted to know who Vincent was working with. I went along with his little charade. I put a little bit of my stories in there to make it feasible for him to look at. The ultimate plan was for him to give me the names and payment and for me to go to the authorities," he said.

The prosecution has alleged that former striker John Fashanu and goalkeepers Mr Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were paid by a Far Eastern syndicate to fix results. Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman, acted as the link with the players, it is claimed.

Mr Lim, 31, Mr Fashanu, 34, and Mr Segers, 35, deny conspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments to improperly influence or attempt to influence the results of football matches from February 1, 1991 to November 9, 1994.

Mr Lim, Mr Fashanu and Mr Grobbelaar, 39, also deny conspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments to improperly influence or attempt to influence the results of football matches between November 1, 1992 to November 9, 1994. Mr Grobbelaar also denies corruptly accepting from Mr Vincent £2,000 as an inducement or reward for improperly influencing or attempting to influence the result of a football match or matches on November 3, 1994.

The trial continues.



Grobbelaar: jury saw video of derby match

Inquiry call over Concorde BT pair

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AN MP is demanding an investigation into how two BT computer experts from the same office beat millions of callers to win £10 seats on Concorde.

John Marshall, Tory MP for Hendon South, made the call as Neville Secular and Dean Perry apparently failed to turn up with other winners for the Valentine's Day seats they had booked on the flight to New York. British Airways declined to say if the two men and their partners had been sneaked onto Flight 001, had taken another Concorde, or had cancelled their tickets.

Mr Marshall said it was "far too much of a coincidence" that the pair should both be among the first 190 callers to a British Airways 0345 hotline which received 30 million calls on Tuesday night. He called on BT to investigate potential flaws in the system and said employees should be banned from taking part in future competitions. "BT should, in order to improve their good name, offer to pay for another two couples to enjoy what is effectively a free holiday," he added.

A BT spokesman said: "If Mr Marshall is going to make a formal complaint we will obviously consider what he's got to say but until and unless he does that, we cannot make any other comment. If there is anything to be investigated, we will do so."

Mr Secular's father, Edward, said yesterday he had no idea where his son went after leaving his house in Orpington, southeast London, in the morning for the airport. "I've not heard anything from him since and I don't know where he is," he said. "He's been told to keep a low profile."

His 25-year-old son insists he and Mr Perry, from Essex, dialled the 0345 hotline number in the normal way from the office they share in the Data Build division in Holborn, central London.

BT maintains the telephone offer was a "lottery" and that there was no way of cutting the odds.

Brawling shinty family banned from field of play until 2001

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A FATHER and his two sons have been banned from playing shinty for the rest of this century after a brawl involving 18 players that brought a cup match to an early end.

A special meeting of the Camanachd Association's disciplinary committee decreed its most severe punishment ever for Robert Duffy, 38, and his sons Alan and David, who play for Oban Celtic.

They were banned from all shinty parks until 2001 after they were judged to have started a fight during a game against Inveraray, a team from Argyllshire, on February 1.

The incident began when Alan became embroiled with another player. His father stepped in to help, joined by his brother. At the height of the brawl, 18 of the 24 players had downed their *camans* (shinty sticks) and waded in.

The referee abandoned the match and reported the players. Each club was fined £250, which will be waived if their players keep out of trouble for a year. Both have been banned from further participation in this year's Aberdein Considine Cup.

Shinty — *camanachd* in Gaelic — is probably the oldest organised team game in Western Europe still played to the original rules. In 563 Columba left Ireland for Scotland in the wake of a quarrel said to have broken out during a game of shinty, and it may have been introduced to Scotland by his followers.

A spokesman for the Camanachd Association said: "The disciplinary committee has never dished out a stiffer sentence in its history and, believe me, there have been some heated incidents on the field of play."

No one from the Duffy family was available to comment. Alan McKie, secretary of Oban Celtic, said the three players were not renowned for tough play.

'Disreputable' vintner exploited clients

BY JOANNA BALE

A COMPANY exploiting fears of a pre-millennial champagne drought cheated customers out of thousands of pounds by selling low-grade champagne at inflated prices, the High Court was told yesterday.

The Department of Trade and Industry is so concerned that customers are being "seriously mislead" that it asked Mr Justice Carnwath to take emergency steps to wind up the London-based firm, Forrester Lamego Ltd, which advertises in national newspapers. Philip Heslop, representing the department, told the court how the company offered a "large profit potential" for investors in champagne and port. Products of "questionable quality" were being sold at vastly inflated prices to customers who believed the "thoroughly disreputable" company's claims. He said that Cattier Champagne, for example, was being sold at a 272 per cent mark-up.

Mr Heslop said that customers would lose money instead of making a profit. "There is no way one could recover the difference, never mind regard it as an investment," he said.

Customers were also liable to pay hidden costs such as VAT and unpaid duties. Mr Heslop said the company logo boasted "vintners of distinction", whereas it was set up only last August under the directorship of Stephen Cleeve. It operated from offices in central London with eight unskilled telesales staff.

Christopher Pymont, representing the company, asked the judge not to send in the official receiver until after a full hearing next Friday. He said an advertisement had been placed in tomorrow's *Express on Sunday* magazine, but he said the company would change its business procedures.

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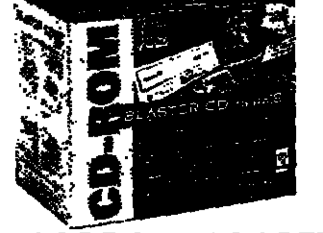

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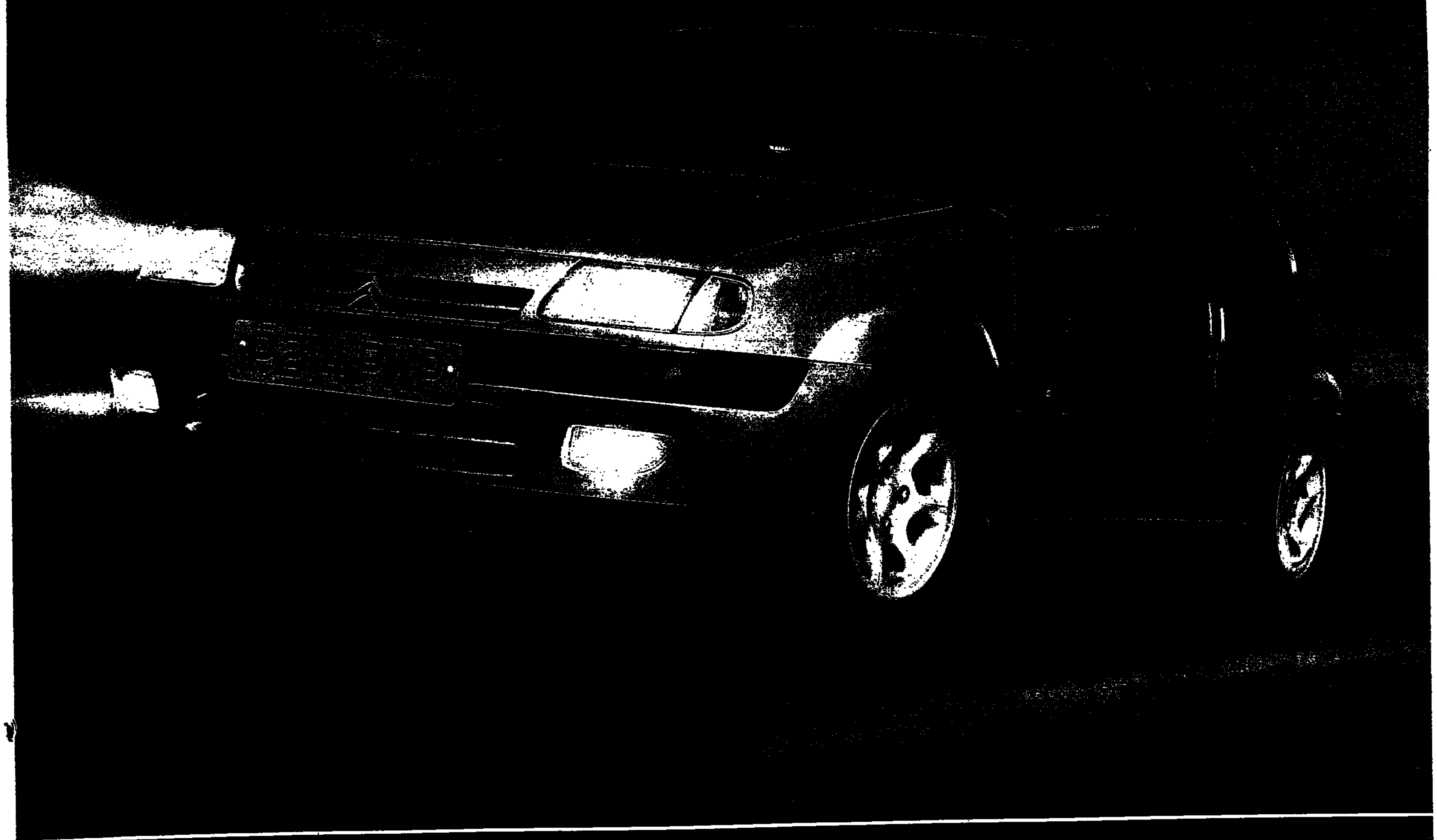

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Student teachers face spelling tests before taking class

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENT teachers will have to demonstrate their own grasp of grammar, spelling and punctuation before they teach children to read and write, under plans to be announced by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary.

The first national curriculum for teacher training will require colleges and university education departments to make similar checks on trainees' competence in basic arithmetic if they are to teach primary mathematics. Detailed proposals will be released next Tuesday.

An outline of the curriculum, leaked to *The Times Educational Supplement*, shows that teachers will be required to demonstrate an ability to conduct whole-class teaching, maintain discipline and deliver interesting lessons. A tough stance on teacher training is one of Mrs Shephard's key commitments in the pre-election period, and she has promised to implement the "biggest ever shakeup" from next September if in office.

When she commissioned the Teacher Training Agency to draw up a curriculum last September, Mrs Shephard said: "It has become increasingly obvious to everyone that too many newly qualified teachers, through no fault of their own, lack the teaching skills they need." In primary training, she promised to focus on student teachers' subject knowledge and their ability to put over the basics.

The Education and Employment Department refused to comment on the report in advance of publication, but a spokeswoman said that proposals would be wide-ranging.

The agency has developed the curriculum after consulting the teaching profession and training institutions. Four documents will set out proposed requirements for primary training in English and mathematics, rules for the new courses, and the standards to be set for qualifying.

Ted Wragg, Professor of Education at Exeter University, said: "I am not in favour of a curriculum set by government, but I don't think it is unreasonable at all to say that those who are teaching something should be competent at it themselves. Students have to have GCSE English to get on to a course, so they should be able to do these things already." The curriculum is not expected to demand tests of grammar or spelling, but Professor Wragg said that higher education institutions might have to introduce tests if they were required to vouch for trainees' competence.

Labour has also promised teacher-training reforms. A party spokesman said: "Teaching methods that are modern versions of traditional methods do make a difference. As part of the training curriculum, teachers must be able not only to master them, but be encouraged to use them in the early years of teaching reading. We are in favour of having a probationary year for teachers because 46 per cent coming out of training say they have not got the confidence to teach in a classroom."

This week the Office for Standards in Education reported on its first round of inspections of primary training, saying that standards were "mostly sound" but adding: "In a significant minority of cases, students' practical competence in the teaching of reading is insecure."

In mathematics, inspectors found that students' knowledge was "generally at least adequate to teach the lessons they plan" but a few courses failed to create the necessary confidence and competence.

An artist's impression of the bridge, which locals have likened to a giant eyelid opening to let ships through. It would link to an arts complex

Curved bridge puts new twist in Tyne row

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a futuristic curved bridge across the Tyne which would swivel upwards along its axis, allowing ships to pass beneath, were unveiled yesterday. But the link, a key part of a £100 million riverside music and art complex to rival the South Bank in London, is threatening to lead its promoters into a clash with the owners of an eight-acre section of the projected arts site, who are pressing ahead with a planned development of 300 homes there.

The land had been earmarked by civic and arts leaders on Tyneside for a £35 million regional music centre to provide a home for the Northern Sinfonia. Martin Bell, of Bridon Ropes, which had a works on the site until 1993, said the homes plan had been under discussion for a long time. "We intend to fight them all the way to a public inquiry."

A Gateshead council spokesman said it would use a compulsory purchase order if necessary.

The arts complex would also take in a 1940s concrete grain store on the southern bank of the Tyne. It would be turned into a visual arts centre with galleries, workshops and recreational facilities. The new £7.5 million pedestrian bridge is intended to tie it in with the Quayside docklands reclamation on the northern bank.

It is only a short distance down river from the famous arch of the Tyne Bridge, which its designers say it mirrors. Locals have likened it to a huge eyelid blinking open to allow river traffic through.

The design by the civil engineers Gifford and Partners and Chris Wilkinson Architects won an international contest. It should be complete by 2000 if it gets funding from the Millennium Commission. The horizontally curved walkway is linked obliquely by metal suspension rods to a 40-metre high vertical arch.

Universe could be a billion years older

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Universe may be 10 per cent bigger and a billion years older than the last set of measurements made it, scientists said yesterday.

A "cosmic ruler", used since the 1920s and the measuring stick for the size of the Universe, is wrong and needs revising, they claimed. The scientists estimated that the oldest stars were about 11 billion years old, making the Universe 12 billion years old.

The findings, disclosed at a meeting in London of the Royal Astronomical Society, are based on observations from the Hipparcos satellite launched in 1989 by the European Space Agency.

Professor Michael Feast of the University of Cape Town, who made the discovery with Dr Robin Catchpole of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, said yesterday: "We judge the Universe to be a little bigger and therefore a little older by about a billion years."

The size and age of the Universe is based on the measurements of regularly winking stars called cepheids, the nearest of which are some 1,000 to 2,000 light years away. By taking the pulse rates of these "standard candles" and measuring their brightness, astronomers can work out how far each one is away.

It allows them to make fairly accurate stabs at the size of the expanding Universe by mapping out the distance of the candles. Hipparcos, named after the Greek astronomer who produced the first star map in 150 BC, was able to make more accurate measurements than ever before from its position outside the atmosphere.

Previous studies by scientists using observations from the Hubble Space Telescope had suggested that the Universe might be as young as nine billion years old, making the oldest stars even older than the Universe itself. "I hope we have cured a nonsensical contradiction that was a headache for cosmologists," Professor Feast said.

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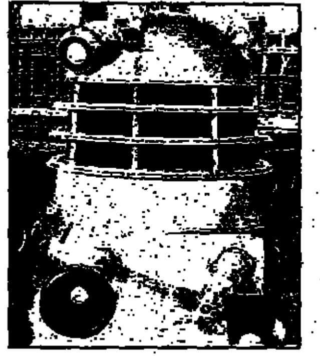
Dr Who lands in the middle of a £22m lawsuit

By Joanna Bale


The Doctor had enough trouble with the Daleks

THE *Dr Who* television series is at the centre of a £22 million dispute. The BBC said yesterday that it would "vigorously contend" accusations that it had reneged on a deal for a feature film.

A consortium of three film-makers and other backers, including the pop stars Bryan Ferry and John Illsley of Dire Straits, issued a writ in the High Court yesterday seeking immediate compensation for £1 million they say they lost when the deal failed. They are also claiming damages of £21 million for potential profits from the three film versions of *Dr Who* they had planned to make.

The consortium, known as the Daltenreys, says it negotiated exclusive film rights to the *Dr Who* film after the television series was axed. Leonard Nimoy, the American actor and director who played Mr Spock in *Star Trek*, was recruited as director. Alan Rickman was about to be cast as the Doctor in January 1994 when the BBC announced it was going ahead with a rival American version involving Amblin TV, Steven Spielberg's company.

The American film, which was eventually made by a third company and which starred Paul McGann, flopped when it was released last year.

The film-makers — George Dugdale, John Humphreys and Peter Litten — say they invested everything they owned, including savings and second mortgages on their homes, to raise the £440,000 for the film rights. They claim that the BBC blatantly "breached its undertaking" with the Daltenreys.

Mr Humphreys said yesterday: "We have been ruined by the BBC. They made every effort to ensure that the project did not get off the ground."

The consortium signed the original deal in 1987 with John Keeble, head of BBC Enterprises, now BBC Worldwide.

It began to go wrong when the Daltenreys secured an agreement with Lumiere Pictures, a company which wanted to invest £20 million in films. The film-makers went to the BBC for final approval, as they were contractually bound to do. According to the writ, BBC executives "obstructed and delayed" progress and even encouraged Lumiere to exclude the Daltenreys from the project.

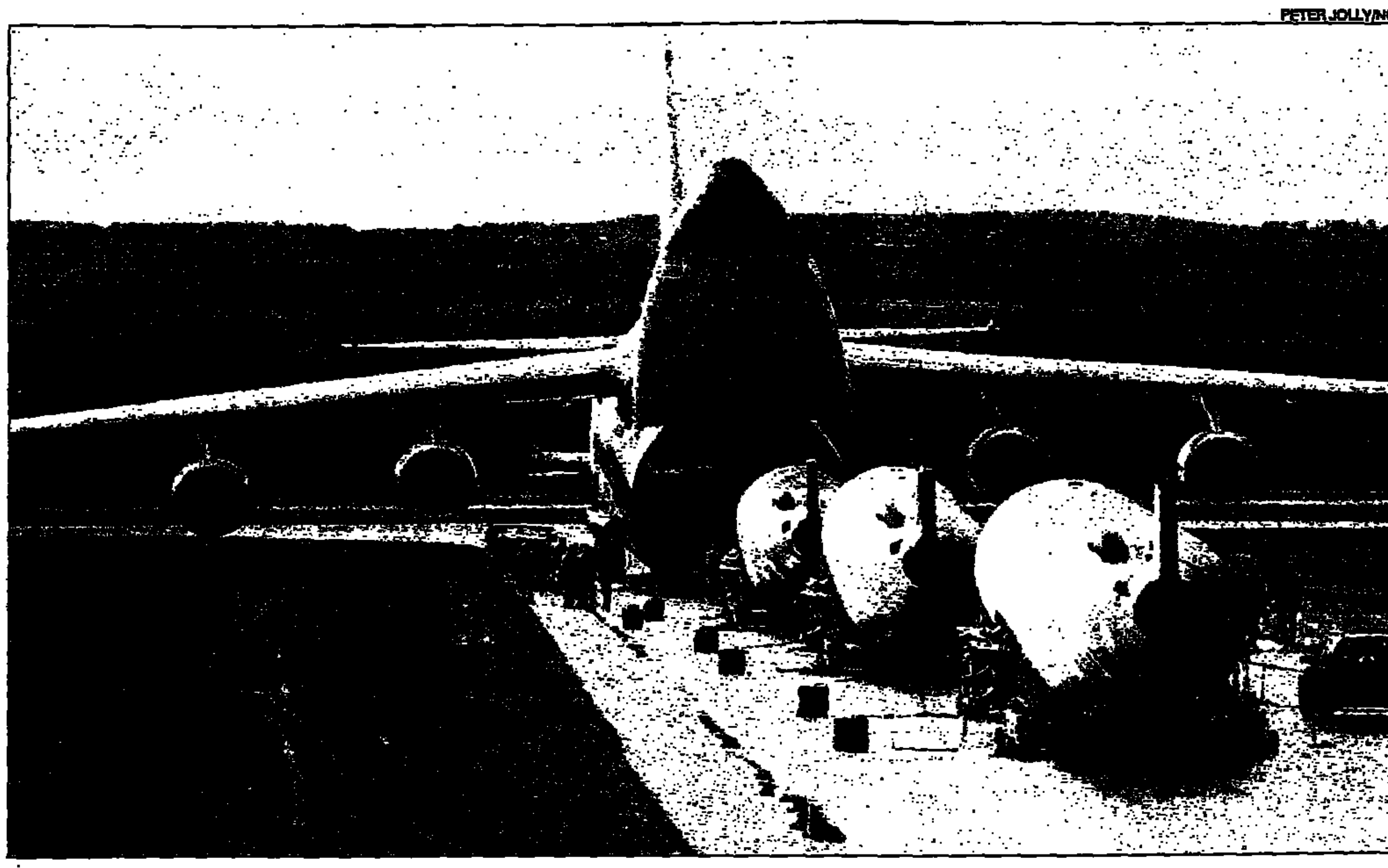
A spokeswoman for the BBC said yesterday: "We are unaware of any legal action but we will vigorously contest it. They had the rights from us but even with an extended period of time could not get the production off the ground. The rights reverted back to the BBC."

The Daltenreys' lawyer, Stuart Lockyear, said: "This has caused financial hardship. Fortunately, NatWest Bank has been very understanding. The BBC will receive the writ through the post on Monday."

☐ The Independent Television Commission yesterday ordered a clampdown on advertisements that could cause epileptic fits among viewers.

The commission upheld complaints against advertisements for Boots cosmetics and Marmite which featured flickering images and vertical black and white lines.

PETER JOLLY/



Russian 'Jaws' takes hold of RAF's Nimrod

A GIANT Russian-built Antonov-124 transporter prepares to swallow the 12-ton fuselages of three RAF Nimrod aircraft at RAF Kinloss on the Moray coast yesterday.

The cargo jet will fly one fuselage at a time to Bournemouth, where 21 Nimrods, a marine reconaissance aircraft which specialises as a submarine-hunter, are to be refurbished as part of a £2 billion modernisation programme. The load is believed to be the biggest single piece by volume ever airlifted. The tails and wings of the Nimrods were cut off so the 110ft long fuselages could be slid into the Antonov's hold.

They will be fitted with new wings, new tails, and sophisticated new electronics and avionics by FR Aviation, under the programme led by British Aerospace to update them. The first Nimrod 2000s are expected to enter squadron service in 2001.

The contract was won last summer against stiff competition from Lockheed Martin, the American company, which offered new P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft.

But although the Nimrod entered service in 1969, the airframe is still immensely strong and the RAF accepted the refurbishment plan. British Aerospace decided to start w three spare Nimrods that ha held in storage without engin avionics so that it would no RAF operations.

The company said it was che lease the Antonov and fly the fu to Bournemouth rather than a to rebuild the Nimrods to ma journey under their own po conversion work could begin.

Husband is fined for assault on councillor

A HUSBAND who attacked a Labour council leader whom he believed had seduced his wife on "fact-finding" missions was fined £750 yesterday.

Terry Hurlstone, 57, was also ordered to pay £350 compensation to Arthur Latham. The prolonged attack left Mr Latham, 68, terrified and trembling so violently that his false teeth were shaken from his mouth, Snaresbrook Crown Court in east London was told.

Hurlstone, whose stepdaughter Jessie was murdered in 1995, became enraged after finding what he believed were love notes for his wife, Caroline, from Mr Latham, a former Labour MP. The court was told that he stormed into the home of Mr Latham, who had just finished breakfast, and repeatedly punched him on the head and body.

Sentencing Hurlstone yesterday, Judge King said he accepted that the former teacher's state of mind had been affected by the murder of his stepdaughter, a stablehand in Devon who was killed by a spurned suitor. But he added: "You allowed yourself to lose your self-control and your temper. This was a disgraceful episode on your part and one of which you should be thoroughly ashamed. Difficulties of this kind cannot be resolved by recourse to violence."

Hurlstone, who was convicted of common assault in December, told the jury he had thought that the long hours his wife devoted to Havering Borough Council was simply a sign of her dedication to local democracy.

Hurlstone, of Romford, east London, said that he and his wife of 22 years had begun divorce proceedings. After the case he said: "I regret the whole incident but you cannot turn the clock back. I intend to celebrate tonight at a Valentine's Day singles dinner. The ladies there have voted me the most popular male member."

Thief freed by judge is rearrested

A teenage mugger was arrested moments after he walked free from court. The 17-year-old youth grinned as the judge said he had decided to give him a two-year probation order and 80 hours' community service for attacking a woman airline executive in Belgravia and stealing her £5,000 bracelet. But as he left Southwark Crown Court, the unnamed youth was arrested for allegedly committing a second mugging while he was on bail.

Bus driver jailed

A bus driver who rammed a double-decker in Brixton, south London, in December was two times over the drink-drive limit, South Western magistrates were told. Sharon Palmer, 40, was jailed for two months and banned from driving for two years.

Gun tragedy

A cabinet maker was found dead with shotgun wounds in his car after years of worrying about body odour, an inquest in Guildford heard. An open verdict was recorded on David Gatfield, 34, of Farnham, Surrey, who was convinced he smelled.

Animal cruelty

Two 15-year-old boys blew up a hamster by putting it in a tin with four fireworks, Driffield Youth Court was told. One of them then stamped on the animal at Driffield School, East Riding, in November. They were fined £100 each plus £25 costs.

Warding off evil

Hospital beds in the Irish Republic remain unnecessarily occupied on Saturdays because of a superstition among patients that leaving on the last day of the week is bad luck, says a survey by Dr Elizabeth Keane of the Institute for Research on Ageing.

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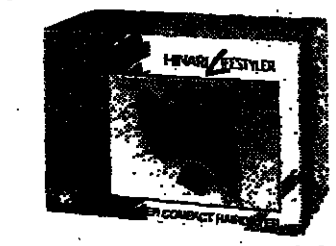

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Friends of the Earth threatens to bring private prosecutions on first anniversary of tanker accident

Protesters demand action on Sea Empress pollution

By Nick Nuttall
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENT campaigners marked the first anniversary of the wreck of the *Sea Empress* oil tanker by threatening private prosecutions against the Department of Transport, the Milford Haven Port Authority and other organisations involved in the spillage.

Friends of the Earth said yesterday that unless the Government's Environment Agency brought criminal proceedings against those responsible within a month, it would proceed with legal action. The grounding of the tanker led to 72,000 tonnes of crude oil leaking into the sea, killing thousands of birds and contaminating large areas of the Pembrokeshire coast.

Tony Juniper, campaigns director at Friends of the Earth, said that if the agency failed to act then the group would. He said the Department of Transport was in its sights as well as the port authority, but he added that the group was gathering new information on the spill all the time and would not rule out action against those behind the salvage operation, and other groups.

The tanker adrift off Pembrokeshire a year ago

A spokesman for Leigh Day and Co, Friends of the Earth's solicitors, said they would seek a prosecution under the Water Resources Act. "It is clear that the grounding of the *Sea Empress* and the oil pollution that followed were avoidable," Mr Juniper said. "But whether those with criminal responsibility for this disaster will face legal proceedings is another matter. If justice is to be done, we must have a proper enforcement of environmental law.

"The public has waited patiently for a whole year but still the Environment Agency won't say who is to blame. We are putting them on notice that if they won't prosecute, then Friends of the Earth will."

The penalty for a conviction under the Water Resources Act is a maximum of three months in jail and a fine of £20,000 if the case is heard by magistrates. In the Crown Court, the jail sentence is up to *two years, with an unlimited fine.*

In 1990 Shell was fined £1 million after it was found guilty of polluting the Mersey Basin after an oil spill. The case was brought by the National Rivers Authority, which is now part of the Environment Agency.

The investigation into the *Sea Empress* grounding is being carried out by the agency with the Department of Transport's Marine Accident Investigation Branch. Its report has still to be published, but preliminary results have disclosed several errors.

The Marine Conservation Society yesterday attacked the Government's response to the accident as "inadequate" and complained that it had refused to station tugs permanently at strategic locations around Britain. The society also said that a full public inquiry into the oil spill was needed.

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA

Campaigners dump buckets of sludge contaminated by the oil spill outside the Department of Transport

Members of Friends of the Earth deposited polluted sludge from the Pembrokeshire coastline on the pavement outside the Department of Transport's offices in London yesterday to protest at the slowness in bringing those responsible to court. The sludge was put on a tarpaulin and later removed.

David Walker, the Environment Agency's southwest Wales area manager, said: "We will not be rushed into a premature decision." He said any decision on a prosecution would be based on sound evidence and not politics "as had been suggested by some".

The agency said the investigation had taken so long because it was complex and a large number of witnesses in Britain and from overseas had to be traced and interviewed.

Wildlife still feels impact of the spill

By Our Environment Correspondent

WILDLIFE is still feeling the impact a year after the *Sea Empress* ran aground, but latest findings indicate that the measured predictions made at the time of the disaster by some environmental groups and scientists were sound.

Dr Malcolm Smith of the Countryside Council for Wales said: "Our findings suggest that short-term damage was considerable, but the longer-term effects could have been much worse had the spill happened later, when it could have jeopardised the huge population of breeding seabirds in the spring or the grey seal breeding population in the autumn."

Dr Smith, whose organis*ation is part of the Government's Sea Empress Environmental Evaluation* Committee, which will report *in the autumn, said that* breeding colonies of guillemots in south and central Pembrokeshire and on islands such as Skomer had not yet recovered: "On average, the populations of guillemots remain down by 17 per cent in colonies near *the spill." Shag, cormorant and razorbill numbers are also lower than in the winter of 1995.*

One of the biggest impacts has been on the prized scoter duck population. Normally some 40,000 waterfowl winter in the area, including up to a third of the UK population of scoters, mainly in Carmarthen Bay. "Counts this winter show there are half the numbers of scoters there were last winter," Dr Smith said.

Some 7,000 birds, representing 28 species, were found oiled and dead in the days and weeks after the disaster. Scientists believe that many more died without coming ashore.

While the beaches around the Haven are now apparently clean and free from pollu*tion, some of the oil and the clean-up chemicals remain in the mud and on the bottom of the sea.* Bans on fishing *shellfish outside the* Burry Inlet and the Three Rivers Estuary near Milford Haven remain in place. The ban also covers edible plants such as seaweeds and samphire.

Rescue: an oiled guillemot being cleaned last year

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False memories can be created by imagining events

From Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor, in Seattle

THE power of the imagination can distort people's perception of the past, creating memories of events that never happened, an American psychologist has shown.

The finding has important implications for sexual abuse cases that depend on adults being encouraged to "remember" events that happened in their childhood. The research shows how easy it is to plant memories by asking people to imagine such events.

Elizabeth Loftus, a psychologist from the University of Washington, reported her experiments at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle yesterday. She calls the phenomenon "imagination inflation" and says that its implications are enormous.

In her experiments, volunteers were given a list of 40 childhood events and asked to estimate the likelihood that any of these events had happened to them, on a scale ranging from "definitely did not happen" to "definitely did happen". Two weeks later the subjects were asked to imagine that events they had identified as not occurring had actually happened to them. The events included falling and breaking a window with their hand, getting into trouble for dialling 911 (the US version of 999), finding a $10 note in a car park, or being pulled out of the water by a lifeguard. After imagining several such situations and being taken through them by a series of questions, the subjects were again given the list of 40 possible childhood events to complete. Professor Loftus and her colleagues found that a one-minute act of imagination made some subjects more likely to believe that such an event had really occurred.

In the case of the broken window, for example, almost a quarter of the subjects who imagined the event were more likely to believe that it had actually occurred.

There are several possible explanations, Professor Loftus says. One is that an act of imagination might remind some people of a real experience. But a more likely explanation, she believes, is that imagining the event simply made it more familiar when the second assessment was made, and that familiarity was mistakenly related to childhood memories.

Professor Loftus designed the experiments to mimic what goes on in some psychotherapists' offices. "Sometimes these therapists are saying, 'Oh, you don't remember who molested you? Just close your eyes and imagine who might have done it'. They somehow think that this might be a route to getting out those buried trauma memories, but in fact we have found that just getting people to imagine things is enough to lead them to believe that they had experiences they wouldn't otherwise believe they had had."

Alternative therapies derided as quackery

By Our Science Editor

ALTERNATIVE medicine manages to fool a loyal and growing clientele despite evidence that it does not work, the association was told.

"A fertile climate for quackery has been created by a number of social and psychological factors, which are convincing both the purveyors and the consumers of alternative therapies that the treatments are valid," said Dr Barry Beyerstein of Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Their claims strongly appealed to wishful thinkers and the "worried well", healthy people who responded to reassurance and placebo treatments.

Dr Wallace Sampson of Stanford University denounced most alternative therapies as "quackery". Even papers published in reputable journals such as *The Lancet* purporting to provide backing for alternative therapies needed close examination, he said.

There was "no credible evidence" for most of the claims that were made.

SIMON WALKER

Dancers from ballet schools across Europe audition for the largest English production of *Swan Lake*, to be staged by the English National Ballet at the Albert Hall in May. Derek Deane, artistic director, auditioned 65 dancers

Byron the great lover 'just wante to be left in peace

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

BYRON'S image as one of the great Don Juans may be in tatters. Far from chasing women, the 19th-century poet spent "an inordinate time fleeing them" and wanted to be left in peace, according to a new biography by a woman academic.

"By nature, he was extremely indolent and all these women required too much energy," says Phyllis Grosskurth, professor emeritus of English at the University of Toronto. "He'd fall madly in love for two weeks and then he couldn't wait to get rid of the woman.

"It wasn't that he wanted to move on to the next one, but that he couldn't wait to have a peaceful life. It was the women — not Byron — who were doing the chasing."

Byron scholars and admirers may contest the suggestion but, she explained, they have always read into him "what they have wanted to read — they wanted to see the romantic figure".

Rereading his poetry and letters, she has reassessed Bryon the man. She said: "Byron was never possessed by passion. It was only for brief periods, and he frequently tired of women. He sought peace and quiet. He shied from any intimacy and long-lasting domestic attachment."

She pointed to his most lasting poem, *Don Juan*, in which Byron (1788-1824) wrote: "Man's love is of man's life a thing apart, 'Tis woman's whole existence." Professor Grosskurth's findings are explored in *Byron: The Flawed Angel*, published by Hodder and Stoughton on February 20. Other biogra-

phers, she feels, have h
tendency to "pull down" c
acters in Byron's circl
order to elevate the poet.

She singled out prev
portrayals of Byron's
Annabella: "Dedica
Byronists suggest she
humourless and took he
too seriously. What they
was that what he made
suffer something drea
He had explosive rages
strange habits. He
strange hours, refused to
any of her friends, and
fused to dine with her a
couldn't bear to see a wo
eat." Her family's paper
vealed that their serv
feared he might "harm" h

"He was relatively dra
into marriage because o
incestuous relationship
his half-sister, Augusta.
riage would give him an
of respectability."

The importance of By
affair with Lady Car
Lamb had also been disto
said the professor: "It h
little more than three mo
and he had tired of her w
two."

Byron: women chas
him, biographer say

Letter commemorating naval victory may go under the hamme

Ashe Lincoln holding the admiral's framed letter

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

A LETTER recounting Admiral Sir John Jervis's victory over the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Cape St Vincent 200 years ago yesterday may be offered for sale.

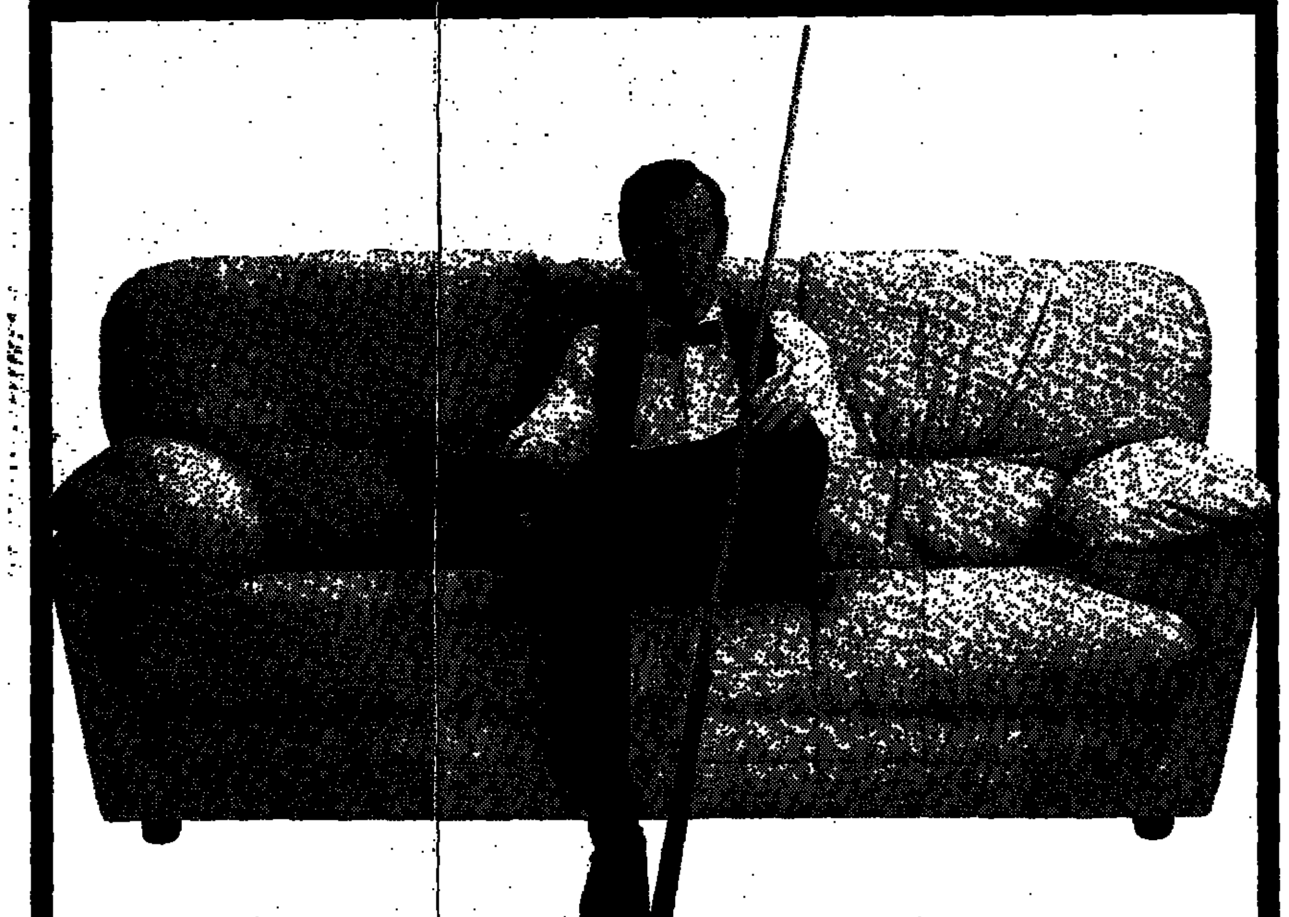
The letter, written in black ink two days after the event, has been in the possession of Britain's longest-serving QC for about 40 years. Ashe Lincoln, 89, who is still working as a barrister, has had the framed letter on one of the walls of his office in Inner Temple "for as long as I can remember". He is now considering parting with the historic document, believed to be worth about £10,000.

At the time of the Battle of Cape St Vincent, the French and Spanish had built up a superior naval force. Admiral Jervis, in command on board *HMS Victory*, positioned his fleet of 15 warships off Cape St Vincent to prevent the Franco-Spanish fleet moving north and threatening England. His bold action helped the British squadron to win a decisive victory over the much larger Spanish fleet and made him a national hero. He was later created Earl St Vincent.

The 200th anniversary of the battle was celebrated yesterday in Portsmouth, where the *Victory* is now berthed. Lord Nelson, who later commanded *HMS Victory* at Trafalgar, was a commodore at the time of the Battle of Cape St Vincent, serving under Admiral Jervis. Mr Lincoln, who also has a cross-section model of *HMS Victory* in his office, acquired the Jervis letter as part of a "job lot of naval memorabilia". He said he immediately recognised its historic importance. "It was fantastic, I knew it was genuine when I saw the signature," he said.

The letter reads: "My dear General, I have just time to tell you we have had an action with the Spanish Fleet which consisted of 27 Sail of the Line and ten Frigates, ours of 15 Sail
Line and six Frigates — and th
have captured 2 first Rates, o
eighty guns, and one of sever
many others are soundly beate
Santissima Trinidade in parti
Gibson will tell you the rest."

Mr Lincoln said he believed
the recipient of the letter was Ge
Sir John Moore who subsequ
made his name over the retr
Corunna in 1809. Gibson, he
was an aide to Admiral Jervis.



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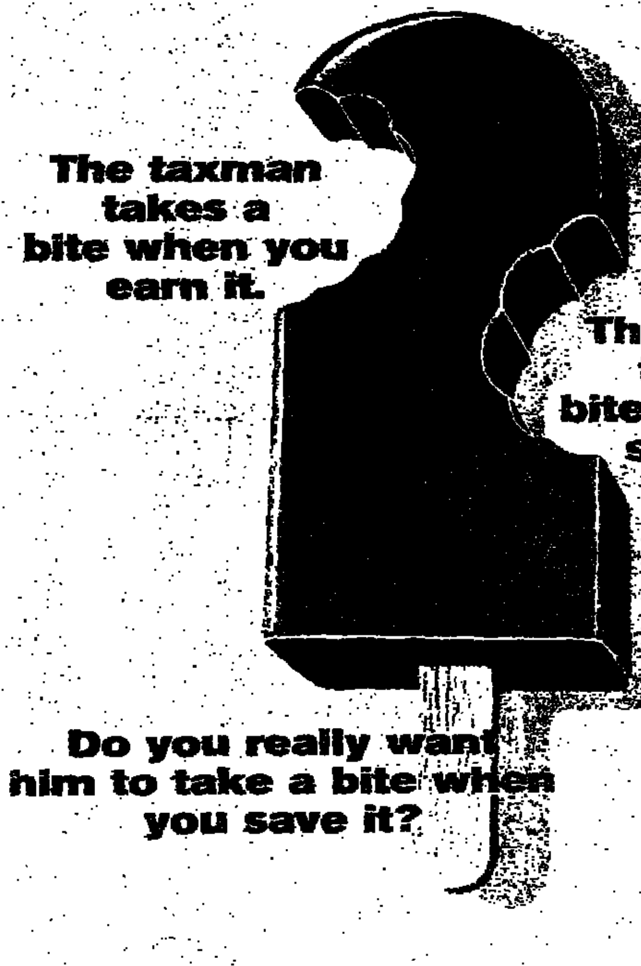
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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الامل

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch urges respect for animals

Suffer our four-legged friends

Credo

I WAS staggered 18 months ago when my doctor told me I had to see a heart specialist. A routine medical examination had produced a disturbing ECG pattern. This news was received by my wife and children with obvious concern. They put me under great pressure to exercise more and insisted that the best cure for my condition was a dog.

For a few days I resisted, then agreed to go with them to look at some Yorkshire-born cross-breed puppies. I succumbed in an instant to the chocolate-coloured one with appealing eyes.

A few weeks later I went to see the cardiologist and had a treadmill test. He took one look at the results, seemed confused, and then said: "There's nothing the matter with your heart. The ECG must have been wrong." In my mind's eye, I could see my dog's smiling face.

So I am landed with a dog, not to mention paying for dog food and vet's bills. Except that I have to admit I have grown rather fond of Gracie, known affectionately as "bishop's mutt".

There is a strong Christian tradition of affection and respect for animals going back to the early saints. It has found its most memorable expression in Saint Francis. St John Chrysostom, one of the great scholar bishops of the 4th century, wrote: "Surely we ought to show kindness and gentleness to animals for many reasons, and chiefly because they are of the same origin as ourselves."

The Bible contains a rich variety of animals, although its specific guidance on how to treat them is less clear. Sadly, its verses have been used at times to justify cruel behaviour. In the book of Genesis, God directs man and woman to have dominion over animals. But, as several Old Testament scholars have pointed out, having dominion does not mean exploiting. It means having responsibility for the well-being of God's creation.

Various churches have strengthened their efforts to exercise that responsibility and counter cruelty to animals. It was an Anglican clergyman who, in the last century, founded the RSPCA. More recently, the General Synod — and the Lambeth Conference — have reminded us that it is part of our Christian calling to prevent neglect, cruelty, degradation and commercial exploitation.

Unfortunately there is no shortage of such abuse. Recent publicity, for example, about experimentation, culling, poaching, transportation and husbandry reflects a heightened public awareness and growing concern about the way we treat animals.

St Francis: memorable expression of tradition

There are, however, some complex ethical issues to be faced, such as the nature of animals' rights. The Church still has work to do on this, and on providing appropriate moral guidelines for Christian behaviour towards animals.

These matters have been brought into sharper focus for me now that I have a dog whose welfare is my daily concern. This has led me to reflect on man's attitude to animals in a way that I must confess, I had not done before. I have also pondered on how animals treat one another.

One of my favourite passages in the Bible is the vision in the eleventh chapter of Isaiah. It looks to the day when animals will no longer injure each other. The wolf and lamb, the leopard and the kid, the calf and the young lion will live together — and a little child shall lead them. For the moment, that remains no more than a vision of God's world at peace, although brave attempts are made, at the increasing number of animal services in churches, to have domestic pets anticipating that heavenly fellowship.

Certainly, animals can provide earthly companionship. For me, getting to know Gracie has been a rich experience of deepening mutual trust. And as a result of my heart scare, my own view of animals has been transformed.

There is a growing Christian consensus that more needs to be done to prevent unnecessary injury to animals and encourage their protection. Our treatment of them remains horrifyingly uneven.

St John the Divine in his vision described in the book of Revelation, heard these words of praise: "To him who sits upon the throne and to the lamb be blessing and glory and might for ever and ever." The point is that, as St John emphasised, these words of praise were from every creature.

☐ *Nigel McCulloch is Bishop of Wakefield*

STEVE FORREST

Bishop McCulloch's dog has led him to reflect on man's attitude to the beasts

Church turns to drink to finance youth services

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A COUNTRY parish is to produce an own-label real ale to raise funds for "rave-in-the-nave" services for young people. The parish church of Bisley, named after the ascetic, desert-living St John the Baptist, is to launch Dog Collar Ale at a local pub on Tuesday in an attempt to raise at least £6,000.

The 4.8 per cent strength beer, recommended by one member of the Campaign for Real Ale as "a strong ale with a hoppy flavour", will be brewed at the Princetown family brewery on Dartmoor, Devon. It will be sold initially for about £2 a bottle at the Fox pub in Bisley, Surrey, and could be introduced as a cask ale.

The Rt Rev Ian Brackley, Suffragan Bishop of Dorking, who will launch the beer, said: "Today's church must be prepared to reach out to the wider community and this is a very sociable way to do it."

The Rev Ian Terry, rector of Bisley, turned to beer as a fundraising idea after Philip Davies, who owns the Princetown Brewery, offered to help out. Mr Terry had helped to care for Mr Davies's late father and takes communion for the sick to Mr Davies's mother each week. Mr Davies's brewery will produce the ale and his brother Jonathan's printing company will take charge of the labels and promotional side.

Mr Terry, a real ale drinker, said Dog Collar Ale tasted like a true real ale. The church needed money for sound systems and a loop induction for the hard of hearing. "We are turning around our 6pm services, and focusing them on attracting young people and those who prefer an informal style."

Services would include video projections, use of a roving microphone and sound and light systems, along with drama. If sales take off, he hopes to fund a curate for the parish, which would cost £18,000 a year with expenses.

Mr Terry said: "Ale brewing has always been at the centre of church life, particularly in monastic times. Alcohol consumed in moderation is a good way of celebrating the joys of God's creation.

"People still think that joining the Church means saying goodbye to anything that is fun."

At Your Service
Weekend, page 11

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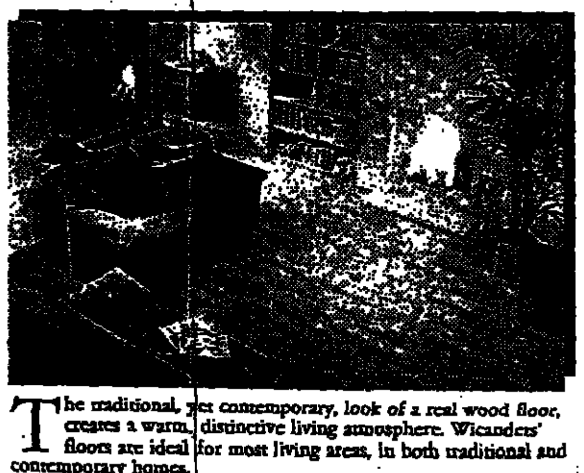

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Daily Mail murder challenge is low-risk strategy

Five men unlikely to take action on paper's charges

Stephen Lawrence and the five men accused by the *Daily Mail* of his murder: from left, Luke Knight, Gary Dobson, David Norris, Neil Acourt and Jamie Acourt

THE *Daily Mail* took a calculated risk yesterday with its front-page story accusing five young men of the murder of Stephen Lawrence (Frances Gibb, legal correspondent, reports). Its "sue us if we are wrong" challenge illustrated the paper's confidence that the legal cards are stacked in its favour.

Lawyers agreed yesterday. They said the likelihood of the men being able to mount an action for libel was remote, and the chances of such an action being successful even more remote.

The *Mail's* story increased the prospect of the murder accusation being heard in a civil court. The Lawrence family has already said it will pursue those they believe murdered Stephen, 18, in the civil courts, as was done in the O.J. Simpson case.

The prosecutions of the youths collapsed in the criminal courts because there was insufficient evidence. There, jurors must be convinced "beyond reasonable doubt". In the civil courts the test is a lesser one: "on a balance of probabilities".

In both a libel action and a civil action for murder, it is possible that a civil court could decide where guilt lies, even if a criminal court were unable to.

A libel action by those accused by the *Mail* would be unlikely to get off the ground, however. The five would have to raise funding because legal aid would not be available. Lawyers are not allowed under current rules to undertake the case on a "no win, no fee" basis, although they could offer to do it for nothing.

The men could instead sue for malicious falsehood, which does qualify for legal aid. But then they would have to prove that the article was published maliciously by the *Mail*, knowing it to be untrue.

Once the court is satisfied that the publication refers to them and is damaging, the burden of proof rests on the *Mail*. Under the defamation laws, a newspaper is effectively guilty until it proves its innocence.

The *Mail* would have to show: that the publication was true, and — or — that it was fair comment. If the case got this far, it might be difficult for the *Mail* to prove that each of the youths committed murder "on a balance of probabalities". But the paper could draw in all the evidence used in committal proceedings and various other court hearings and even evidence excluded for legal reasons.

Its lawyers might also plead that the paper was covered by a degree of "qualified privilege" because the article followed and drew on the verdict of the coroner's jury that Stephen Lawrence was "unlawfully killed". Each of the five had attended the inquest and had invoked his right to silence.

The question of evidence at any libel trial would raise a second problem for the men. Oliver Smith, a defamation partner with Davenport Lyons, said yesterday: "It is highly unlikely they would sue because they would have to give evidence on their behalf if they were to have any chance of a jury believing them." Mr Smith said that they could submit affidavits and trial transcripts. The *Mail* would call its own witnesses to contest these, and if the five refused to be cross-examined, jurors would be unlikely to find in their favour.

There is a statutory right to a jury in libel and a presumption that trial will be by jury unless the case involves a mass of complex documents or scientific investigations.

A majority verdict would be sufficient. Even with a favourable verdict, a jury could still award minimal damages, as low as 1p.

If the family pursues a civil action, they would be on stronger ground. Legal aid is available. The action would be heard by a judge without a jury. Again, the youths could not be compelled to give evidence: they would almost certainly claim the common law fundamental right not to incriminate themselves, as they did at the inquest. But, as with any libel action, a failure to give evidence would prejudice their position.

If the Lawrence family did get a finding that the youths were liable, they would be unlikely to be able to obtain damages because the defendants have no funds.

CASE HISTORY

☐ **April 22, 1993:** Steph
Lawrence dies.
☐ **April 29:** Inquest forma
opened and adjourned.
☐ **May 13:** Neil Aco
charged with murder.
☐ **June 23:** Luke Knig
charged with murder.
☐ **July 29:** Court told insu
cient evidence to bring a ca
☐ **August 16:** Metropoli
Police set up review of inqui
☐ **December 21:** Inquest
sumed. Police invited to c
tinue investigating.
☐ **April 24, 1994:** T
Acourts, Knight and Nor
charged with murder in p
vate prosecution.
☐ **August 29, 1995:** Gary D
son charged.
☐ **September 7:** Jamie Aco
discharged — insufficient e
dence he was at the scene.
☐ **September 8:** Case agai
David Norris dropped —
sufficient evidence.
☐ **September 11:** Neil Aco
and Luke Knight commited
court to face trial.
☐ **April 18, 1996:** Trial of N
Acourt, Luke Knight a
Gary Dobson begins.
☐ **April 25:** Identification
dence ruled inadmissible.
three acquitted.
☐ **February 13, 1997:** Inqu
verdict of unlawful killing.

Church turns to drink to finance youth services

HARDWOOD FLOORS WITH A DIFFERENCE...

Graffiti on the side of a shop on the Brook estate

Mixed reaction in community split by racism

By Daniel McGrory, Richard Duce and Kathryn Knight

MANY on the Brook Estate in Eltham, southeast London, claim they know who killed Stephen Lawrence but four years on they still refuse to point fingers.

A newsagent shop on the edge of the sprawl of semi-detached homes built before the war has racist graffiti daubed on the front wall but the owner, who has been there for eight years, said: "It's still only a minority."

"What is sad is that it's young children, nine and ten year olds, who shout 'Paki' at us and swear when we refuse to sell them cigarettes. Some regard these five as heroes and that should worry us. You do not see many black faces living here. Those who are put here soon leave," he said.

"I leave the graffiti. If you rush out and clear it off the same boys will only do it again if they think it hurts you." His regular patrons agreed that policing on the estate was no more evident or effective than before Stephen Lawrence's murder.

Alan Evans, 21, who declared himself a friend of the five named by the *Daily Mail*, held the paper up and said: "It's out of order to name these boys when the courts said they didn't do it." Asked if he knews who did, Mr Evans grinned and tapped the side of his nose.

For 11 years Laltaben Soni has run a newsagents a short walk from where Stephen Lawrence was murdered but yesterday her cutomers preferred not to be reminded of that. "Everyone turned away from those faces. They haunt us all and we are sick of it really because it brands this area as full of racists. The worst we have suffered is verbal abuse and graffiti but we do know some Asian shop keepers have had their windows smashed." A hundred yards from her shop Rohit Dugghal, 15, was stabbed to death by a white youth a year before the Lawrence murder.

"Police and counsellors and various action groups swore to eradicate racism but what chance?" Mrs Soni said. After Stephen Lawrence's death police set up a race unit near by at Plumstead station. They are proud of their efforts but yesterday a spokesman said: "We would normally be happy to show people around but we do not feel it's right at a time like this."

Surinder Cheemar, of the Greenwich Action Committee against racial attacks, said: "Few black families stay on the Brook estate for very long. Only a handful remain. The others have been driven out by racial taunts, stones through their windows and attacks on them and their property." Over the past three years about 200 racial attacks were reported to the committee annually. "The reality is that Eltham is a no-go area for black people."

> ‘We've been compliant too long, silence breeds racism’

The British National Party regards the estate as fertile ground for its leaflets; the graffiti on walls and underpasses are testimony that it finds support.

A youth worker applauded the *Dail Mail's* naming of the five and hoped it might shape attitudes in his community. "We have been compliant for too long, silence breeds racism. It is rooted here, albeit small, but powerful because it grows unchecked," he said. But he too preferred to remain anonymous, fearing retaliation and reprisal.

Four youths who wandered into an off-licence on the estate pointed to the face of the five. Tony Smedley, 22, who elected himself spokesman, protested the five's innocence and said: "We are not racists here but we do object to immigrants being moved into houses in our area."

Nobody in the shop raised a voice in protest. Most of the newspapers featuring the five men remained unsold.

One man who knew the boys said: "I think there is a genuine feeling of shared community shame. The death of Stephen Lawrence has never gone away for the people of this area because no one has been brought to justice and that troubles our consciences."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Private passions

❝Did she have an insatiable sexual desire, like Cleopatra, whom she played triumphantly at Stratford? Did her appetite border on nymphomania, as some said it did? Was she genuinely in love with all the men she slept with? Or could she simply not say no?❞

Garry O'Connor's biography of Dame Peggy Ashcroft, which rips away her disguise as the virginal "head girl" of English theatre, starts tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Building forgotten after murder of James III of Scotland

Castle skeleton points to discovery of royal chapel

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

The skeleton was laid out with feet pointing to the east

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe they may have found the lost royal chapel of St Michael, where James IV of Scotland confessed to his implication in the assassination of his father, James III.

The whereabouts of the chapel have long been a mystery, but a routine excavation at Stirling Castle, which is undergoing extensive restoration, has uncovered a 500-year-old skeleton from a religious burial in the centre of an unknown building under the old Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' kitchens.

The original chapel fell into disuse after James IV (1473-1513) built the present Chapel Royal at the castle, ostensibly as an act of penitence for his involvement in the death of his father in 1488. The whereabouts of the old chapel became forgotten over the centuries.

Chris Watkins, regional director of Historic Scotland, said the discovery had caused great excitment. There were plans to peel off some of the modern plasterwork on the army building to see if any of the ancient chapel decoration remained.

Archaeologists do not know the identity of the skeleton, a male in his 20s, but the fact that he was given a Christian burial and was carefully laid out, with his feet to the east on the axis of the chapel, suggests he was of some importance in the royal household.

Richard Fawcett, principal inspector of ancient monuments with Historic Scotland and an expert on Stirling Castle, said: "We are trying not to get too excited, but it's clear we are dealing with an archaeologically extremely important site.

"The evidence ties in quite nicely with this being the king's personal chapel. We have always known there were at one time two chapels in the castle, one private chapel for the king and his family and one for *hoi polloi*, which is assumed to have been on the site of the later Chapel Royal. But no one knew where the private chapel, which was dedicated to St Michael, was situated." The king would have heard at least one mass there every day. He said that the find could necessitate rewriting the castle history books.

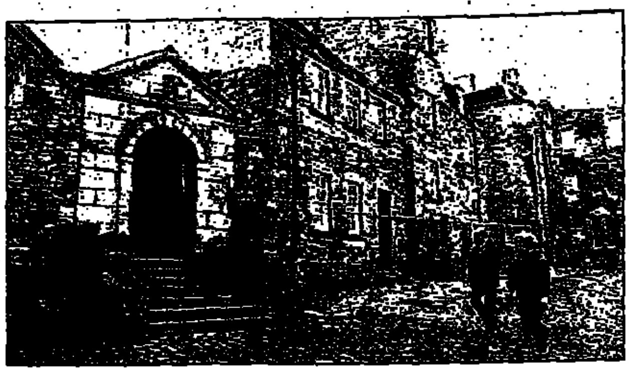
Dr Fawcett said James IV was implicated in the death of his father at Sauchieburn, and apparently suffered agonies of conscience. He wore an iron chain around his waist to which he is said to have added one link every year.

"Certainly one of the reasons that he had such a magnificent Chapel Royal built over on the other side of the inner close was in expiation for his involvement," Dr Fawcett said. "It was a burden he carried until he himself died at Flodden."

He added that the truth of what happened at Sauchieburn will never be known, "but it certainly looks as if the leaders of the rebellion felt they were getting support from the young prince. It is said that this was something he spoke about only to his confessor."

Dr Fawcett said the site of the building gave credence to it being the old Chapel Royal. "The intriguing thing is that it ties in with the alignment of various important buildings that have been found within the castle over the years. "It's also on what's probably one of the most prestigious parts of the castle, on one of the highest part of the castle rock. If we're right about it being a chapel, this looks like a burial before the site of the high altar, which would have made it a pretty important one."

It is unlikely the body was a member of the royal family, who were generally buried in the great royal mausoleums at Dunfermline, Holyrood and Arboath. It is hoped that further excavation will providec a clue to his identity.



Stirling Castle's army kitchens, below left, may be on the site of the old Chapel Royal, where James IV, right, confessed to implication in his father's murder

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Droppings drove man to shoot 30 pigeons

By a Staff Reporter

A COMPANY director shot up to 30 pigeons because he felt their droppings were ruining the appearance of his home. Kenneth Anderson killed or maimed the birds with an air gun outside his mews flat in central York.

Peter Tetlow, prosecuting for the RSPCA, told York Magistrates yesterday that Anderson was seen by a neighbour crouching behind the open door of his car holding the rifle. Another neighbour later found two pigeons with pellet wounds. A vet gave the birds urgent help but because of their injuries they had to be humanely killed. Tests showed the pellets had been fired from Anderson's rifle.

Anderson admitted two charges of intentionally injuring a wild bird. He was given a one-year conditional discharge and his gun was confiscated. He was ordered to pay more than £525 costs.

Anderson, who represented himself, said the pigeons were vermin and the council had refused to do anything about the problem. He decided to take the law into his own hands and had managed to get rid of a significant number of them.

Nanny held in US jail 'not getting right food'

By Adrian Lee

THE father of the British nanny charged with murdering a baby yesterday criticised conditions at the American prison where she is being held.

Gary Woodward said his daughter Louise, 18, was being refused vegetarian meals and he was not allowed to bring in food from outside. "I can only buy her food from vending machines in the prison which dispense only crisps and chocolate. She can't live on that," Mr Woodward a builder, of Elton, Cheshire, said.

A request by Kathy Tunsley, the British Vice-Consul, that the rules should be relaxed was ignored by the authorities at the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Framingham, near Boston.

Miss Woodward, who is accused of murdering nine-month-old Matthew Eappen, has been moved from a solitary unit to a general wing at the all-women prison.

The Vice-Consul said that Miss Woodward had access to a television, video and library. She can also take regular exercise. "I have tried to get the diet changed but they don't make exceptions. She is getting some vegetables and fruit," she said.

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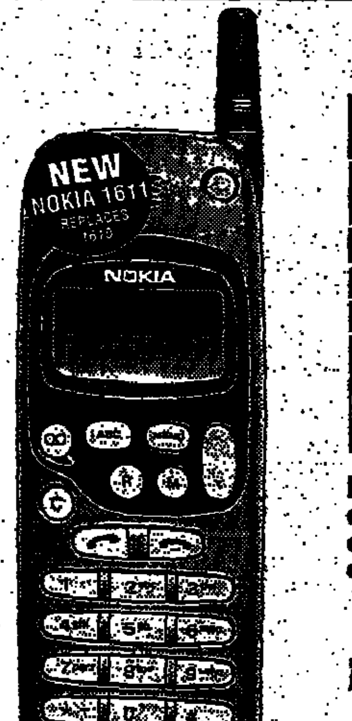

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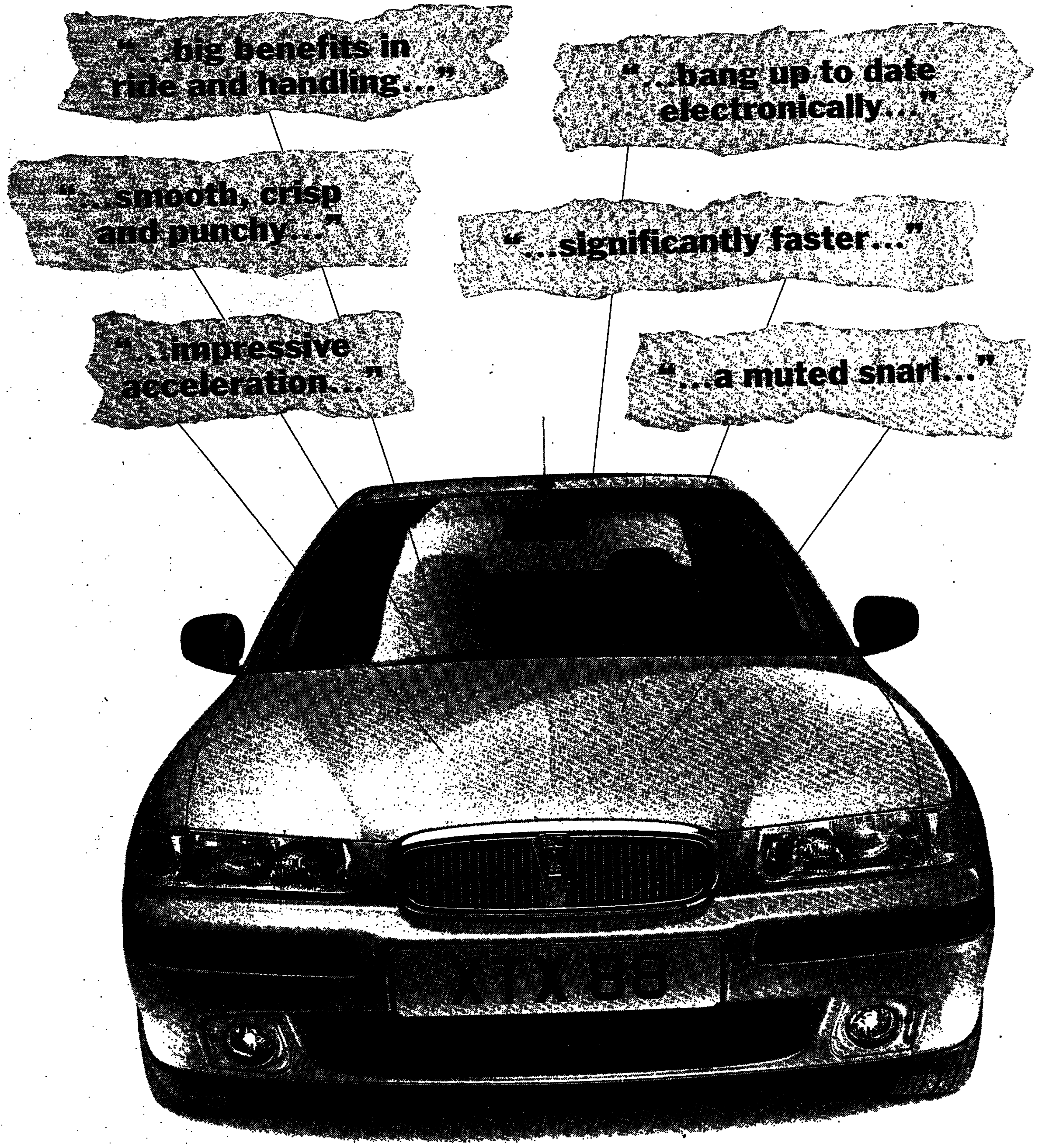
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Pilots' strike will leave thousands stranded

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent and David Adams in Miami

TALKS went on throughout the night in an attempt to prevent tens, possibly hundreds, of thousands of passengers from being stranded by the most serious airline strike in aviation history.

As aircraft operated by the world's biggest airline, American Airlines, headed towards airports throughout the world pilots were expecting to be called out on strike from 5am today. If they are, no flights by American will leave from 161 airports at which they are due to land until the strike is called off.

President Clinton was said to be ready to step in to try to resolve the dispute which could seriously damage the standing of the United States and affect both business passengers and holidaymakers in all four continents.

The strike has been called by more than 9,300 pilots who are complaining over cost cutting measures imposed by the airline.

American is hoping to form an alliance with British Airways and was last night trying to find spare seats on other carriers. But many routes — especially across the Atlantic — are already fully booked and the chances of finding additional seats are slim.

American operates 16 flights a day to Britain from various parts of America — 12 to Heathrow, two to Gatwick and one each to Manchester and Birmingham. Each of the jets carries an average of 200 passengers, so potentially up to 3,200 passengers a day could be stranded in Britain alone while the strike lasts.

The American pilots claim they are worried about job "outsourcing" and having their pay cut or salary increases limited."We have seen this company give routes away to other carriers and lose our pilots their jobs as a result," said Captain David Johnson of the Allied Pilots Association.

The British Airways alliance, he said, would be "a great asset to American Airlines and one we are looking foward to. But this management has a record of giving our jobs away and that is something we want to stop".

American Airlines, which has a fleet of 617 aircraft, said that its pilots' pay averaged $100,000 (£62,500) last year with a further profit-sharing bonus of around $10,000.

Talks, said a spokesman, had begun originally on July 1, 1994 and after a series of problems, a tentative agreement was reached in September last year. But the pilots refused to ratify it and a cooling off period which began on January 16 expires tonight.

American Airlines last night formally rejected a latest compromise offer. Al Comeaux, an airline spokesman, said the offer was not a proposal. "It was a bunch of verbiage on paper," he said.

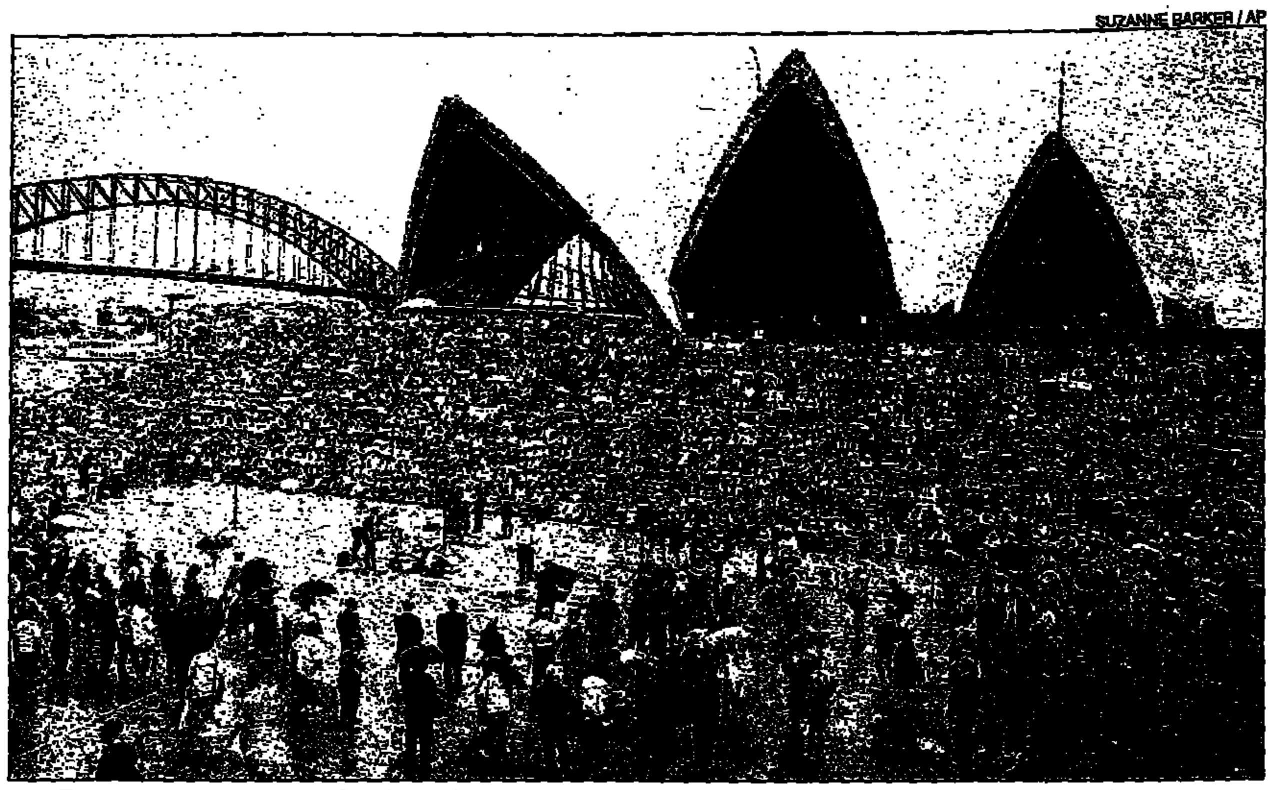
The effect of the dispute has already been felt in Miami, the company's international hub. The airline has cancelled many international flights, creating havoc on routes to Latin America and the Caribbean where American is the dominant carrier.

Extra police officers are on stand-by at Miami International Airport, in case tempers flare among stranded passengers. Airport officials have another problem: where to put American's stranded planes — 100 of them in Miami alone — in the event of a shutdown.

American is South Florida's dominant international carrier, accounting for almost half the flights that land in the city, from destinations all over Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

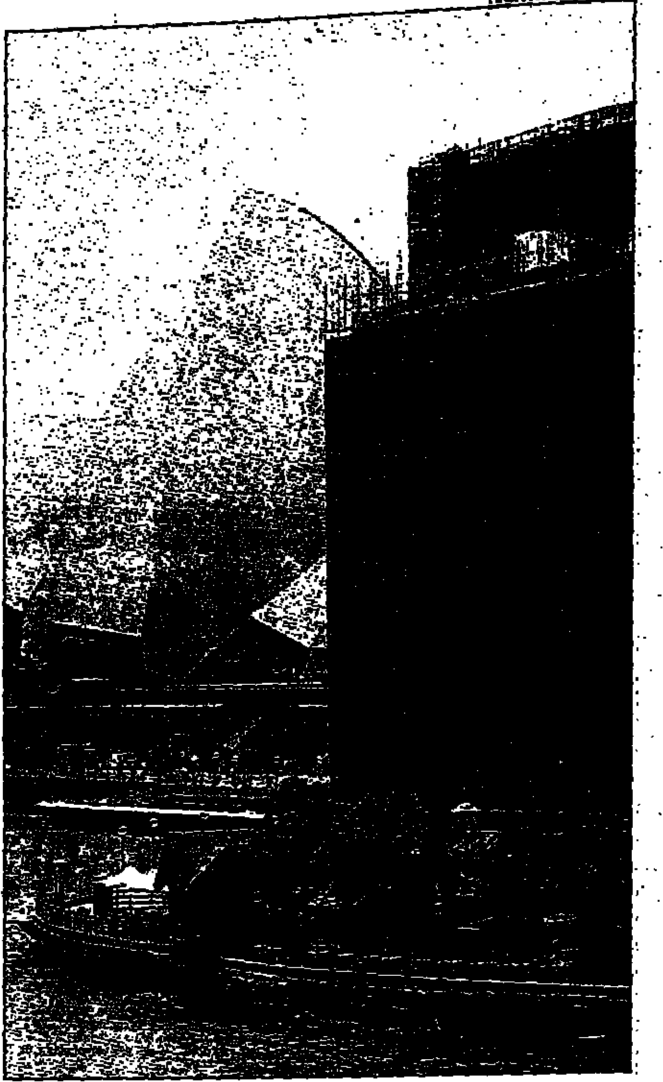
"It's going to be devastating," said Bob Booth, a Miami-based regional aviation specialist. "If you take 45 per cent of the capacity out of the market there's just not enough remaining to step in," he said.

SUZANNE BARKER / AP



Demonstrators mass outside the Sydney Opera House to protest against the Circular Quay development

RICK RYCROFT / AP



The block of flats would cost £350 million to buy out

Sydney condemns blot on historic landmark

Sydney: As Australia primps for the 2000 Olympics, critics complain that Sydney's showcase opera house is being eclipsed by a block of flats that even city officials now regret permitting.

The huge, 237-apartment block is the first of three large buildings that will form a curtain as tall as the Sydney Opera House, the city's famous landmark. The complex will block the view from Circular Quay, the site of the first British landing in 1788.

At least 2,000 protesters massed yesterday on the steps of the Opera House to denounce the development.

"The (Opera House) building has been severely compromised. It's one of the greatest buildings of the 20th century," Judy Davis, the actress, told the crowd. Yesterday's *Sydney Morning Herald* said the ten people on the committee that approved the plans for the building in 1994 now regret the decision. However, the state Government says it would cost nearly A$700 million (£350 million) to buy the project out and demolish it. *(AP)*

Film friend saves Clinton's blushes

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

A LOYAL Arkansas friend has saved President Clinton from humiliation in a forthcoming film version of *Primary Colors*, the bestseller based on the 1992 Democratic campaign for the White House.

Billy Bob Thornton, who will direct the film, has toned down the book's depiction of a thinly disguised Mr Clinton as volatile, undisciplined and none-too-faithful to his wife, and has admitted seeking the President's blessing before accepting the job.

"I know him very well, and I asked if it was OK," Mr Thornton told the daily trade paper *Variety* after winning two Oscar nominations for his latest film, *Sling Blade*. The director, who still lives in Arkansas despite his Hollywood acclaim, said he would not have gone ahead with the project had it meant upsetting Mr Clinton. To avoid presidential displeasure, the Clinton character had been made "more endearing than it was originally written", he said.

Primary Colors became the talk of Washington on its publication last year, partly because of its "anonymous" author, who turned out to be the *Newsweek* columnist Joe Klein, but also because of its withering insider's portrait of a presidential campaign driven by polls, media "spin" and the candidate's cold and manipulative wife.

Tom Hanks, another close friend of the film-loving President and an active supporter of Democratic causes, turned down the role of the candidate soon after Mr Klein was revealed as the book's author last summer. He is thought to have been troubled by the idea of lampooning Mr Clinton. The lead will now be played by John Travolta.

'White legion' abandons Zaire

Mercenaries hired to bolster the Mobutu government are fleeing as the rebels close in, writes **Sam Kiley** in Kinshasa

ZAIRE'S "white legion" of 300 mercenaries has been routed by rebels closing in on the central town of Kisangani.

Zaire's Defence Ministry said yesterday that the last of the soldiers of fortune hired by Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister, were expected to leave Kisangani this weekend. Others had already fled to the Central African Republic.

"A few have been kept back as personal security for President Mobutu, in Gbadolite [where he has a palace]. But most, the French, Belgians and Britons, have already gone," a government minister said yesterday.

Government figures said that the mercenaries had been sacked because they had caused morale to plummet in the Zaire Army. Paid about £1,500 a month, the mercenaries were hired to put resolve into the military resisting the rebel advance. Instead, they have been driven out of Watsa and Isiro in the north of Zaire. Their presence in Kisangani — where Zairean troops recently received their £1.50-a-month pay in new notes that no one trusts — had become an embarrassment.

"The army has ordered that they get out of the country. The generals never wanted them in the first place," a minister said. Some of the mercenaries were spotted checking out of luxury hotels in Kinshasa yesterday.

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has claimed to have killed at least 30 mercenaries and said that any who were captured would be shot on the spot.

Government forces have abandoned an area about 1,000 miles by 500 miles without much of a fight in a civil war which intensified three months ago.

The failing defences of Kisangani were mirrored by the collapse of morale in the capital, Kinshasa, yesterday. The personality cult built up over the past 30 years around Mr Mobutu, now battling advanced prostate cancer, has all but evaporated.

"You know, we should negotiate with Kabila [the rebel leader]. If they talk, then we can have elections and get rid of this President. He is finished," volunteered a senior secretary at the Interior Ministry. A few years ago, such a statement would have earned her a trial for treason.

Zaire's administration, security system and military machine has ground to a halt while the country awaits the outcome of the war.

Mr Mobutu's trump card is his special Presidential Division. The 20,000-strong force, the best trained in the country, though useless on the battlefield, has been pulled out of the frontline and is now based around Kinshasa.

"That means he can keep the lid on what happens in the capital. There are growing signs that if he did not have the force here the citizens would simply declare the President defunct, and open negotiations with the rebels," one Western ambassador said.

The new head of the army, General Marc Mahele, a respected martinet, is fast emerging as a frontrunner to replace Mr Mobutu in a coup.

☐ **Kigali:** A Rwandan court yesterday sentenced to death Froduald Karamira, a former political leader found guilty of being a ringleader of the 1994 genocide. His lawyer said he would appeal. *(Reuter)*

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CHANGING TIMES

EU call for pressure on Burma

THE European Union called yesterday on the Association of South-East Asian Nations to step up pressure on Burma to end human rights violations and return the country to democracy (Michael Binyon writes).

The issue was at the centre of talks in Singapore between EU foreign ministers and Asean leaders.

£16,500 stamps lost at fair

Hong Kong: Two stamp collections, worth about £16,500, were reported missing at a philately fair here. A British dealer lost an album containing 1,000 King George V stamps after a people crowded round his stand, while a Russian collector reported the loss of about 300 Chinese stamps. *(AFP)*

Up to 35 die at Lake Victoria

Nairobi: About 35 people were feared drowned after a motorboat capsized on Lake Victoria. Police said only four bodies had been recovered but five passengers survived by clinging to debris. It is unclear how many were on board but it is thought that the boat was overloaded. *(Reuter)*

Death bid fails — and succeeds

Mount Olive: A prisoner in this West Virginia town, who tried to commit suicide by putting his head into a power saw blade before being restrained, suffered a fatal heart attack while he was being interviewed later by a psychiatrist. *(AP)*

Elephant herd kills soldier

Johannesburg: A soldier was trampled to death when about 70 elephants rampaged through a camp in the Kruger National Park in South Africa. He was patrolling for illegal immigrants from Mozambique. *(Reuter)*

Chilli torture

Delhi: The seven Indian police officers accused of blinding detainees with chilli powder to extract confessions in Gujarat have been suspended, reports here said. *(AFP)*

Bodyguard reveals ailing Yeltsin now needs help to walk

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

BORIS YELTSIN is unable to walk unaided for more than a few yards, suffers periodically from incontinence, and is showing signs of Parkinson's disease, according to a member of his security service.

"Due to problems with his legs, Boris Yeltsin is often incapable of moving around independently," the official told journalists from a Moscow news agency, who told *The Times*. "Sometimes the President cannot walk unaided for more than a few dozen yards." The official said that bodyguards accompanying Mr Yeltsin carried a folding chair to allow him to rest.

The source said Mr Yeltsin, who was 66 this month, also suffered bouts of incontinence, and his doctors were increasingly concerned with emerging symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

The latest revelation came as the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, passed a resolution demanding that the Health Ministry and the President's doctors provide a written assessment of Mr Yeltsin's health by March 1.

At a Kremlin briefing yesterday Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, said such information would be made available "without any problem".

Despite a huge effort by the Kremlin administration to convince the public that Mr Yeltsin's recovery is going well, his failure to return to full-scale work after suffering pneumonia last month has led to growing doubts about his ability to run the country.

Mr Yeltsin has been under medical supervision almost constantly since his re-election for a second term last July, and underwent a quintuple heart bypass operation in November. He returned to the Kremlin just before the new year, but was back in hospital two weeks later with pneumonia. Since then has made only occasional appearances in his office for televised meetings with senior government officials.

Asked about his health yesterday, Mr Yastrzhembsky insisted that Mr Yeltsin's convalescence was going well and there was no reason for concern. In a further effort to demonstrate his well-being, Mr Yeltsin broadcast a radio address to the nation yesterday, his first of the year.

In a pre-recorded six-minute speech, he called on the new leadership of the breakaway republic of Chechnya to respect human rights, rejected calls for constitutional amendments and assured pensioners of continued state protection. He spoke clearly, without the slurring that has often affected his delivery in the past, but his voice sounded weak and old. Doubts about the President's recovery were renewed this week when Mr Yastrzhembsky conceded that his convalescence was going slowly and that it would take a further ten to 15 days before Mr Yeltsin could return to work.

A planned trip to The Hague at the beginning of the month to meet European Union leaders was cancelled at short notice because doctors advised Mr Yeltsin against flying. In March, the President had been due to fly to Washington to meet President Clinton, but the meeting is now due to take place in Helsinki. The Finnish capital is only a 90-minute flight from Moscow and, if necessary, Mr Yeltsin could travel there by train.

A European Union-Russia summit postponed because of President Yeltsin's ill health will take place in Moscow on March 3, a European Commission spokesman said yesterday in Brussels.

Mr Yeltsin's doctors insist his latest health problems have nothing to do with his heart trouble and that there is no reason why he should not resume a fully active life. But his progress since his operation has been extremely uneven. Opposition politicians have repeatedly called for him to step down.

Gloomy prognosis for frail President

THE BIBLE suggested that three score years and ten was the allotted human life span: then, as now, there is a wide variation.

In the 20th century most people in the Western world live rather beyond 70, but others by virtue of their lifestyle, hereditary or other disease, peter out earlier. Whatever their age, the disintegration of someone's physique is usually mercifully hidden from the public gaze by the privacy provided by living in a private household. There is no privacy if the patient is a President, and now the world is watching as one by one President Yeltsin's bodily systems start to fail.

Mr Yeltsin, 66, has had long-standing myxoedema (poor thyroid function), at least two heart attacks, and is reputed to have been a recurrent binge drinker and so — despite the heady optimism of the American surgeon Dr Michael DeBakey — made, as most doctors predicted, a slow and poor recovery from his multiple bypass surgery. The "pneumonia" which followed the operation was in all probability bilateral pulmonary congestion brought on by heart failure, rather than the signs of a post-operative infection.

Since the surgery Mr Yeltsin's Parkinson's-type symptoms have become very much more pronounced: today it is reported that he finds it difficult to walk unaided more than a few yards.

The President is also said to find it hard to control his bladder. The signs and symptoms are all evidence of a patient who has had a stormy post-operative period and his prognosis must, in the medical euphemistic term, remain guarded.

The development of acute heart failure in an older man is always worrying; one recent survey suggested that there was a near 50 per cent mortality within a year.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

AP / RICK RYCROFT

Stephen Godfrey, a Canadian palaeontologist, examines a 220-million-year-old fossil in Sydney yesterday. Scientists believe the fossil, recently found in southwest Australia, could be that of a species of amphibian, predating the dinosaurs and

Scientists hail Australian fossil

related to today's frogs and salamanders (Roger Maynard writes). The specimen, which is being hailed as Australia's most significant fossil find this century, will be on show to the public from today. When found, it was embedded in a 1.6 tonne sandstone boulder delivered from a New South Wales quarry to a farmer building a terrace near Gosford, north of Sydney.

Decisio on Brck defuses tension

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRCKO

A HECTIC round of inte tional diplomacy pulled nia from the brink of rene conflict yesterday as inte tional arbitrators decided the contested northern po Brcko should remain u international supervision another year.

Visible anger among town's displaced Muslim munity dissipated in the a noon, as news filtered thro from Rome that arbitra had decided the present p was too fragile a commodi meddle with significantly.

The Bosnian Serbs, "cleansed" Brcko near start of the war in 1992, remain in charge of the that links the two halve their territory. The rub is a heavy American Stab tion Force presence, cou with an international sup sor, should ensure the return of Muslims to wrecked homes.

he deal is fraught with well-meaning platitudes have so far conspicuo failed to reunite Bosnia. yesterday at least those Brcko seemed resigned giving it a try. "Ther nothing to worry about," Miodrag Pajic, the Mayor

Diplomats say the inte tional supervisor, wor under UN High Represe tive Carl Bildt, is likely American, with the Euro Union overseeing the elections.

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Doubts over succession threaten Golan talks

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent, and Bronwen Maddox in Washington

SYRIA and Iraq, two of the most autocratic regimes in the Middle East, are facing internal disruption and serious succession problems which threaten widespread instability for the entire region.

The troubles spring from ill health and clan rivalry within the ruling families who run the countries in a ruthless fashion using different wings of the Baath Party.

Following reports from Damascus that President Assad, 66, had recently been in a coma for two weeks until revived by Russian doctors, the Jordanian paper *Shihan* yesterday described how doctors had struggled to bring the President back to consciousness and described his health as "grave".

Haaretz, the Israeli daily, disclosed that, according to American information, "Assad's condition is poor and has not improved since his prostate surgery early in January". This scenario, backed by reports in a number of non-Syrian Arab papers, contradicts official Syrian claims that Mr Assad is healthy and has returned to a full working schedule. He has appeared in public recently, but looked weak and pale.

The man widely known as "The Sphinx of Damascus" has suffered for years from a combination of heart trouble, diabetes and a rare type of leukaemia, but has repeatedly defied speculation about his imminent demise.

The President's weakness is accompanied by concern that, since the death in 1994 of his favoured eldest son, Bassel, in a mysterious car crash, there is no obvious successor. Mr Assad, who seized power in 1970, has been grooming his younger son, Bashar, 31, who was ordered to abandon his medical studies in London.

Assad: said to have been in a coma

In Iraq, the brutal regime of President Saddam Hussein has been rocked by the attempted assassination last December of Uday, 33, Saddam's oldest son and chosen successor. Uday is now confined indefinitely to a Baghdad hospital bed with two bullets thought to be lodged in his spine. Despite hundreds of executions and thousands of arrests, Uday's two attackers have not been found. Saddam's hopes for the succession have turned to Qusay, the younger of his two sons.

In Washington, President Clinton called on Israel and Syria to return to the negotiating table as part of a White House bid to regain momentum in Middle East peace talks.

Mr Clinton, who met Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, for three hours on Thursday signalled that Israeli-US relations were back on track after three tense meetings which failed to make progress towards a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Mr Netanyahu also used the meeting to repeat his alarm at a proposed sale of 102 F16 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, worth up to $15 billion (£9 billion), which Israel argues would dangerously boost the kingdom's ground-attack capability.

Israeli-Syrian talks were suspended last year, but both sides now appear more willing to contemplate a resumption. The previous Israeli Government offered to return virtually all of the disputed Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for full diplomatic and economic relations and guarantees of security. Mr Netanyahu has proposed returning a smaller slice of the area, but indicates that he is prepared to discuss all issues without preconditions.

AP

Two American astronauts, Steven Smith, foreground, and Mark Lee, carrying out the most expensive overhaul in history yesterday as they work on the Hubble space telescope 370 miles from the Earth.

Space craftsmen fix Hubble

In the 43ft telescope's first service since 1993, they attached new instruments to the telescope which should allow Nasa scientists greater penetration of the depths of the universe (Quentin Letts writes). New cameras the size of household fridges were taken from the cargo bay of the shuttle *Discovery* and were manoeuvred into place on the telescope by the spacewalking astronauts. It took them seven hours to clip the new devices on to the telescope, which has travelled about 996 million miles since it was last inspected.

McVeigh sister 'talked of bomb'

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

FOUR months before the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the sister of the chief suspect in the case warned her friends at a Christmas party that a "revolution" was coming in which "something big is going to happen with my brother", according to court documents unsealed this week.

Jennifer McVeigh, who as the younger sister of Timothy McVeigh is expected to be a crucial witness in her brother's trial, talked at the party about "weapons stuff", "bomb stuff" and a need to overthrow the federal Government, two guests told the FBI.

"There's going to be a revolution and you're either going to be with us or against us. I know I'm ready," Ms McVeigh was quoted as saying. Joel Daniels, her attorney, said even if she made anti-government statements at the party it was not criminal.

The bomb explosion in April 1995 killed 168 people and injured 500. The attack took place exactly two years after the botched raid by federal agents on the Branch Davidian cult headquarters in Waco, Texas.

Vogue for chain gang spreads to Maryland

By Ian Brodie

AMERICA'S new vogue for chain gangs is moving north. A county bordering Chesapeake Bay in Maryland has become the latest local authority to decide that the way to get tough with prisoners is to manacle them together and send them along roads to pick up litter and clear ditches.

The move has been denounced as "needlessly cruel" by a lawyer for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, who said she might sue to stop the plan. Deborah Jeon said: "Chain gangs represent the Old South at its worst. You don't deter crime by treating people as animals and parading them around in chains."

The view was not shared by Mike Zimmer, one of three commissioners in Queen Anne's County who voted unanimously to introduce the chain gangs. In his view they add the penalties of hard work and public shame to sentences and are a warning to children who drive past with families.

The jail has 70 to 80 inmates at a time who will be put into chain gangs of a dozen each. Women prisoners will be on separate gangs.

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Korean defector fears for his life in Beijing siege

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING AND ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

CHINA'S Foreign Minister appealed for calm yesterday as a tense stand-off over a defecting senior North Korean continued in Beijing. Qian Qichen urged both sides to treat the issue "in a cool and calm manner, to keep peace and stability".

The official has sought sanctuary in the South Korean Consulate building. Last night a bulletproof vehicle pulled up outside as tough-looking North Korean men in black leather coats and wearing lapel pins depicting the late "Great Leader", Kim Il Sung, watched from a police cordon 150 yards away.

But there were no immediate signs that the defector, Hwang Jang Yop, 72, who knows the innermost secrets of the Pyongyang regime, was about to be moved. "This incident happened all of a sudden, so we need more time to investigate," said Mr Qian after meeting his South Korean counterpart, Yoo Chong Ha, in Singapore, where Asian and European foreign ministers are holding a conference. Other meetings are expected before a decision on Mr Hwang's fate is reached.

Diplomats say China is caught over the issue, having long-standing fraternal ties with the socialist North and more recent, but vibrant, trade and commercial relations, with the South. North and South Korea have sent high-level delegations to lay claim to Mr Hwang. The North has sent officials from the ruling Workers' Party and the Foreign Ministry.

Beijing-based envoys fear that the North Koreans will stop at almost nothing to prevent Mr Hwang, a former confidant of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, from leaving for South Korea.

Once there he would be able to speak about past North Korean state terrorism, ranging from the blowing up of a South Korean delegation in Rangoon to the destruction of airliners and the submarine incursion late last year into the South. Kim Jong Il's 55th birthday celebrations tomorrow have almost certainly been dampened by the defection, and fears of revelations about his reportedly lurid former personal life.

A Chinese driver outside the South Korean Consulate in Beijing said the driver of a North Korean vehicle had told him: "If we see Hwang, we will kill him."

Mr Hwang feared for his life after falling foul of Kim Jong Il, according to letters said to have been written by him, which were published by a Seoul newspaper yesterday.

The letters say that he made up his mind to defect last May after being attacked by the North Korean leadership and placed under surveillance "on the pretext my thoughts are not suitable for North Korea's governing system".

The 73-year-old secretary of the ruling Workers' Party in charge of international affairs was clearly alarmed by Mr Kim's paranoia, which grew more intense as economic woes undermined his hold on power.

"The leadership's suspicions and jealousy have become far more severe with the economy being ruined and the leadership being further weakened," Mr Hwang wrote. The three letters were written in November last year, and delivered to an intermediary in January through an aide who also applied for political asylum at the South Korean Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday.

The South Korean Government has said the letters are authentic, though many Koreans detect the hand of the state security apparatus in arranging their publication.

Mr Hwang, an architect of the North's guiding philosophy of *juche* — self-reliance — intended to defect by April this year, apparently expecting to be falsely accused and purged from his official positions.

"It is better for my family and colleagues for me to kill myself rather than getting killed after being publicly criticised with materials fabricated by the leadership."

The crisis would occur some time "after a big event" in February, he feared, possibly referring to the 55th birthday celebrations.

"Until the February big event, the leadership will use me and prevent any disturbances from happening, but after that time, I cannot say what will happen to me," Mr Hwang apparently wrote.

South Korean officials said Mr Hwang had hoped to defect during his visit to Japan, which ended on Tuesday, but found no opportunity.

WILL BURGESS / REUTER

Chinese police march past a bulletproof vehicle outside the South Korean Consulate in Beijing yesterday

Muslim riots 'not over'

Alma Ata: Leaders of an exiled nationalist group in Kazakhstan said yesterday that riots in China's predominantly Muslim northwest were continuing, despite Beijing's statement that disturbances had been quelled.

"We are sure that it is too early for Beijing to announce that the riots have been neutralised," Yusupbek Mukhlisi, leader of the United National Front of Turkestan, said.

Chinese officials said on Thursday that the riot had been "fomented by hostile foreign forces" but had been quelled by the army and police. The officials have said nine people were killed and at least 198 wounded, about 50 of them seriously. *(Reuter)*

'Hongcouver' becomes Asian haven

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN VANCOUVER

THIS week, after four years in Vancouver, Wai Fu Ma put on his new charcoal grey suit, pinned a carnation to his lapel and went down to the convention centre overlooking the harbour to pledge allegiance to the "Queen of Canada".

In reciting the oath at a mass swearing-in ceremony, he followed the path taken by 300,000 others from Hong Kong who have chosen Canadian citizenship in the last decade in anticipation of China's takeover of the colony.

At 23, Mr Wai seems the ideal immigrant. He is a business student with fluent English. His well-to-do family has invested in Canada. "We think it's a better place to live," he said. Yet he may, for example, return to Hong Kong to work. Canadian government figures show that somewhere between 100,000 and 150,000 have gone back after securing the insurance policy of a Canadian passport.

Canada would have to bear the brunt of any massive loss of confidence in Hong Kong's future. In such an emergency, some 300,000 would have the right to join close relatives already in Canada, according to Don Devoretz, a Vancouver immigration expert.

The impact of immigration from Hong Kong has already been felt keenly across Canada, especially in Vancouver. Canada's princely city on the Pacific has become, in effect, a Hong Kong in waiting. Its Chinese community has doubled to 250,000 — one in five of the population — giving rise to the nickname "Hongcouver" and creating a framework that could rapidly expand.

The Chinese presence is not like the Chinatowns of old. The immigrant community is as energetic and upwardly mobile as much of Hong Kong itself. Vancouver's Chinese have their choice of supermarkets and shopping malls, three daily newspapers, two television channels and two radio stations. They can work, eat out, see a doctor, consult a lawyer and buy a car without ever speaking English.

But the immigrant tide has brought an undertow of cross-cultural currents, including crime, spiralling property prices and white resentment. Vancouver now has the costliest housing in Canada.

The flow of migrants back to Hong Kong is a concern. David Lam, who emigrated from the colony years ago and became Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, chided Mr Wai and the others at the swearing-in ceremony. "You must burn the mental bridge to your old country," he told them. "Don't take the casual attitude of 'I can come, I can go'".

Still, the authorities are eager to assuage Chinese sensitivities. They instantly agreed to a name change after a Chinese civic leader complained about a remote stretch of water 500 miles north of Vancouver. It had been called Chinaman Lake.

Patten's Valentine bids fond farewell

Hong Kong: Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, received an anonymous Valentine's Day greeting, causing an aide to reflect on whether he might have a secret admirer among China's Communist leaders.

The greeting appeared as an advertisement in the daily *Hong Kong Standard* and said: "To Beloved Brit Governor Patten. If once in a lifetime a wish could come true, I would open the door for you to walk through, the heartaches in this case is many. But the day I lose you will be the hardest of any. I only wanted you. Love."

"This is probably from some secret admirer in the hierarchy in Beijing," Mr Patten's spokesman said. "But I take it that it's not from Lu Ping."

Little love has been lost between the Governor and Mr Lu, China's chief of policy on the handover of Hong Kong to Chinese rule on July 1. The two have frequently traded verbal attacks on issues such as the future of democracy and human rights in the territory. *(Reuter)*

Rifkin retreat o colony' legislatu

FROM JONATHAN MI
IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN has backed on its threat to take Ch the International Co Justice over its shadow l ture for Hong Kong.

After talks with Ma Rifkind, the Foreign tary, yesterday, Qian Q China's Foreign Ministe the matter "is now close

This reverses John M promise to Hong Kon year that Britain would Beijing legally responsib abolished the elected L tive Council which Chr ten, the Governor, has t the "benchmark" of Kong's continued libert prosperity.

Mr Rifkind, describing self as realistic, said: " Chinese are determine maintain the Provisiona islature then they hav power to do so because are the sovereign power.

British officials attemp put a positive spin on the by saying that Britain focused the international munity's concern on Kong. The officials also comfort from Mr Qian's ment that whatever hap in Hong Kong will be a m for Tung Chee-hwa, the Executive-designate and administration. But Mr has already aligned hi with Peking's plans change.

The Foreign Secretary tented himself with repe his warning that if C pressed ahead with cha which include deep cuts i Bill of Rights, Hong would "become like any Chinese city".

The climbdown had foreshadowed earlier week by comments from nese officials. Shen Guo the Foreign Ministry sp man, said in Peking tha Qian would not discuss international court in Hague and would insist Britain stop misleading eigners and creating controversies.

In Singapore yesterday Rifkind said: "For the Int tional Court to have juri tion it must have agreement of both sides. is not available, so we ar in a position to be insiste it."

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Mayor of Paris faces corruption inquiry

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

JEAN TIBERI, the Mayor of Paris, faces imminent investigation on suspicion of corruption, according to a magazine report which drew angry denials from the Mayor yesterday and sent fresh tremors through the ruling Gaullist party.

M Tiberi's wife, Xavière, is already under investigation on charges that she was overpaid by a regional authority to the tune of FFr200,000 (£21,500) for writing a short and unnecessary report. The money was paid into a joint bank account belonging to M and Mme Tiberi, *Le Point* magazine reported, directly implicating the Mayor in the scandal for the first time.

The magazine said that the evidence, uncovered by magistrates Chantal Solaro and Dominique Pauthe and showing that the Tiberis had equal access to the funds, means that a formal investigation into M Tiberi's role in the affair is likely to be launched within the next few days.

The Mayor, who would come under intense pressure to resign if he became the target of a full legal investigation, issued a statement yesterday insisting the report was "totally false" and vowing to sue the magazine. "Once again, the spread of false information based on rumour is not only injuring me, but interfering with the ongoing investigation of a case," M Tiberi said.

Xavier Dugoin, the Gaullist head of the Essonne regional authority which allegedly overpaid paid Mme Tiberi in 1994 for writing the report, recently told magistrates that the fee was personally negotiated by her husband. M Dugoin, who is also being investigated, later retracted his statement.

M Tiberi took over from Jacques Chirac as Mayor of Paris in May 1995, and the case involving his wife has opened up a gulf between the mayoral office and the Government. Paris city officials are said to be outraged that the Justice Ministry has not done more to quash the investigation, but in his most recent televised address, President Chirac pledged to overhaul the legal system and ensure that the Government could not interfere with legal investigations.

"The magistrates are independent," the Mayor was reportedly told. "So there is nothing to be done."

Mme Tiberi's lawyer, Thierry Herzog, this week filed a motion for the investigation against her to be dropped.

Government insiders say that if M Tiberi is brought down, a far more damaging scandal over alleged illegal party funding could blow open, reaching to the very top of the French Government.

Investigating magistrates are separately looking into allegations that contractors paid bribes into Gaullist party coffers in exchange for lucrative contracts when M Chirac was Mayor of Paris and M Tiberi was in charge of the city housing office.

Xavière and Jean Tiberi: had equal access to funds

SIMON WEINSTOCK / REX FEATURES

A 150-year era of steam power is coming to an end in India. Except for enthusiasts, few will mourn its passing

India's steam trains shunted to scrapyard by clean machines

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

INDIA announced yesterday that it will soon be sending the last of its steam trains to the scrapyard, ending a 150-year era of steam power.

Western Railways, where many of the remaining steam engines operate on little-used country lines in Gujarat, will shunt 40 trains to the junkyards in the next two months. They will be replaced by diesel engines, which are faster, cleaner, cheaper to run and easier to maintain.

The passing of steam may be lamented by enthusiasts, but not by the men who have to work with it. Drivers and firemen have nothing good to say about steam trains; they *are ill-maintained and full of* rust because the Railways Ministry has for years refused to spend money on them, and working on the footplate in summer is unbearable.

Staff complain that it takes hours to fire up the boilers in the morning, whereas diesel trains start as easily as a car, and that the trains must be coaxed through days punctuated by greasing, cleaning out ash and dealing with constant breakdowns.

Steam "toy trains" that ply to the hill stations of Darjeeling and Ootacamund — better known in India as Ooty — will be reprieved until 2000, when their future will be reviewed. They are popular with tourists. These will be the survivors of the world's greatest fleet of steam trains, which helped to make India a nation and was crucial in the post-independence drive for industrialisation.

The last broad-gauge steam trains were scrapped in 1995, leaving 260 smaller steam engines travelling the backwaters. Many have been relegated to shunting duties because their notorious unreliability plays havoc with timetables. There are now fewer than 100 left, remnants of a steam fleet of 8,500 engines at its peak in the 1970s. *The diesel and* electric fleet is now a record 13,000 trains.

Indian Railways continues to grow. New lines are being built and passenger volume increases yearly. Steam is seen as an embarrassment to the world's most used, and second largest, rail network — 40,000 miles against Russia's 50,000. It carries 18 million people a day, many of them for a pittance: the third class fare for the 900-mile journey from Delhi to Calcutta costs £6, making it the transportation of the poor. The better-off travel in air-conditioned First Class.

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Albanians blame former surgeon for savings crisis and accuse him of reviving one-party state

Doctor loses healing touch

TIRANA FILE

by RICHARD OWEN

"WE ARE witnessing the consequences of last May," said an Albanian journalist as we took refuge from a street protest in a Tirana café this week. "Berisha's party used fraud to win the elections in May. Now he is reaping the whirlwind. These riots are not just about the pyramid funds, they are about the way he runs Albania. We are back to a one-party state."

After a month of upheaval this view is growing, even within Mr Berisha's right-wing Democratic Party, which has a virtual monopoly on power. The left-wing parties have joined other opposition groups in a "Forum for Democracy". Mr Berisha, 52, a dapper former heart surgeon who opposed and then succeeded the Communist regime which ruled Albania for decades, is looking tired and grim. "Time to go, doctor," said the opposition paper *Koha Jone* yesterday.

Yet there is no alternative leader of his stature. "We started from below zero," he tells visitors at the presidential palace on the monumental Boulevard of the Martyrs. "I cannot produce a modern European economy and culture overnight." He points out that there is a free press, that he stepped in to close down pyramid saving funds as soon as it became clear they were heading for collapse, and he insists his Democratic Party won the election fairly.

The Opposition has able leaders, including Rexhap Mejdani, the Socialist (ex-Communist) Secretary-General, and Kurt Kola, a political prisoner under the Communists and now head of the Forum For Democracy. But the Socialists are still tarred with the brush of the detested former regime and the protests lack direction.

Nevertheless, Albanians are genuinely angered and dismayed by Mr Berisha's crushing of all demonstrations, and the beating of opposition intellectuals — including Mr Kola — by right-wing thugs. Mr Berisha's attempts to blame all protests on "the Reds" have worn thin.

Above all, Albanians condemn Mr Berisha's closeness to the businessmen who operated the discredited funds, many of which were used by the Albanian and Italian Mafia for money-laundering.

The new entrepreneurs are certainly colourful. Fitim Gerxhalliu, manager of the failed Gjallica fund in the port of Vlore, which has been hit by some of the worst protests, is given to flamboyant bow ties — or was, before he was arrested. He says the hotels, supermarkets and petrol stations built by the funds were meant to point the way for Albania out of its squalor and poverty.

In Lushnje, people still have touching faith in Rrapush Xhaferri, a former Communist-era soldier who became one of Albania's leading and most popular capitalists. Mr Xhaferri — now also in jail — owns a business empire and runs the Miss Albania contest and the Lushnje football team. His status as local hero was confirmed when he imported the Argentine football star Mario Kempes as coach.

Another tycoon, Vehbi Alimucaj, owns the Vefa empire, embracing supermarkets and hotels, food processing, aviation and shipping, bitumen mines and chicken farms. Mr Berisha insists entrepreneurs such as Mr Alimucaj — who runs a Lear jet and lives in a restored Italian colonial-era villa in Tirana — are "important contributors to the economy".

Pellumb Sehaj, a former apparatchik who runs the Italian-backed Silva empire, says he has earned the six Mercedes-Benzes in his garage, and that Albanians should "erect gold statues of Berisha and myself, to thank us".

Heir to King Zog waits in wings

ONE man is watching events unfold with particular interest: Leka Zogu, son of the late King Zog and exiled heir to the Albanian throne, who lives in Johannesburg and likes to be addressed as "Your Majesty". He thinks his moment may have come.

In a message to Albanians, he urged his "brothers and sisters" to "make your demands through peaceful demonstrations". A tall, imposing man with short, swept-back grey hair, Leka Zogu, 57, left Albania as a baby in 1939, when the Italians invaded. He tried to return four years ago but was not allowed in.

If he did return now he says he would not take his mother, wife or 14-year-old son because it is "too dangerous". He said his son, also called Leka, was "the heir apparent if anything happens to me".

MICHAEL LECKEL / REUTER

President Berisha, once praised for his role in ending the Communist dictatorship

Fun with toys of a tyrant

SOME of the more grotesque monuments of the Communist era have long gone: the huge statue of the paranoid dictator, Enver Hoxha, on Skanderbeg Square has made way for a children's funfair, which now makes an incongruous background to anti-Berisha protests.

Some are harder to get rid of: the peculiar concrete gun emplacements, or bunkers, which Hoxha built to ward off invasion still dot the countryside. But perhaps the strangest Hoxha-era relic is the museum to his glory opposite the presidential palace. A UFO-like, pyramid-shaped structure of glass and marble, it was designed for Hoxha's 80th birthday in 1988 by his daughter, Pranvera, an architect.

In its heyday it was lit by rays from a red star on top, casting an eerie glow over a carved figure of Hoxha seated inside. The monument is no longer illuminated, and the Hoxha memorabilia have gone. The authorities have made it into a rather drab business and cultural centre. But its main function is to provide amusement for Tirana's children, who slide, skateboard, and even bicycle down its smooth slopes, oblivious to the tyranny which created it.

Tintin's chums find a new villain

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

Tintin: "legacy belongs to all Belgium"

TINTIN, the intrepid boy reporter, has landed in a new scrape 13 years after the death of his Belgian creator and, as often in his adventures, the villain is an Englishman.

Nick Rodwell, a Briton who married Fanny Remi, the widow of Hergé three years ago and now runs the global Tintin business, has been denounced by a battery of heavyweight critics and writers for the "moral hi-jacking" of their hero.

"Tintin in Danger," said yesterday's *La Libre Belgique* in a front-page editorial, accusing Mr Rodwell's Hergé Foundation of striking a blow at "a heritage which belongs to all Belgium . . . and to humanity. Mr Rodwell, 42, is charged by the Tintinologists, a serious crowd given the comic strip's Continental revered status as high art, with applying Vatican-style control on books written about their hero and his chums, Captain Haddock, Snowy the dog and the Thompson detectives.

Mr Rodwell is also alleged to be desecrating the temple through the merchandising of Tintin memorabilia.

"Tintin is treated today like a brand name, a simple product turned into luxury products that are getting more and more expensive," complained Benoît Peeters, a renowned Hergé critic. Albert Algoud, author of the successful *Illustrated Haddock*, complained that Mr Rodwell had blocked his latest book, a study of the Thompson twins, by refusing permission to reproduce any illustrations.

"I don't see how our books could be less legitimate than the trade in printed socks, bank cards for Japan . . .", he grumbled at a Brussels press conference. Mr Peeters announced that frustration had forced him to end *The Moulinsart Library*, a collection of Tintin-related studies which he has edited. The news made the front page of yesterday's *Le Monde*.

Mr Rodwell is also accused of excessive zeal in the pursuit of royalties for reproduction of Tintin's image in publicity for bookshops and exhibitions of the comic-strip art.

Mr Rodwell, 42, a former advertising man, was unavailable for comment yesterday but the foundation and Moulinsart, the company that runs the merchandising, are insisting that they are simply trying to preserve the Tintin heritage.

Hergé, whose real name was Georges Rémi, left strict orders in his will that no sequel should be written to the 23 Tintin books he turned out from the 1930s to the 1960s.

Progress over landmine ban

Vienna: Governments and pressure groups yesterday hailed as a success a forum to start the ball rolling for a total worldwide landmines ban. Thomas Hajnoczi, head of disarmament at the Austrian Foreign Ministry and chairman of the forum, said its draft could be the basis for negotiations.

The three-day conference was attended by more than 100 government experts and was part of the so-called "Ottawa process", started in October at a 50-nation forum hosted by Canada. A follow-up conference is planned in Brussels in June, with a further meeting in Ottawa in December. *(Reuter)*

Human rights 'central to Labour policy'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LABOUR would make human rights central to its foreign policy, with a tougher stance towards Nigeria and Burma and insistence that human rights remain on the agenda in discussions with China, Robin Cook says in an interview.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary, outlining Labour's priorities in a forthcoming issue of the magazine *Diplomat*, accuses the Government of ineffectiveness and lack of direction. Labour would push for oil sanctions against Nigeria and would join European Union members in supporting sanctions against Burma. On China, Mr Cook says he has himself raised the case of three dissidents durings talks there last May. "I believe that it is very important in dialogue with China that we should keep the issue of human rights on the agenda."

But he makes it clear that Labour would try to develop a "working relationship" with China to give Britain a basis to demand that China adhere to commitments on Hong Kong. "The number one priority of British foreign policy must be to safeguard the future of Hong Kong."

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■ DANCE

The Royal Ballet steps into the modern world in Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove*

■ AWARDS

View from the stalls: a year in the life of an Olivier Award judge

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ WHAT'S ON

From the Young Vic's staging of Arthur Miller's great tragedy, *Death of a Salesman* ...

■ WHAT'S ON

. . . to Suede in concert: all the top weekend events are listed in The Directory

THEATRE: Who judges the Olivier Awards? **James Pickard** finds out

And the winner is...Mrs Hart

Elisabeth Hart has been *to the theatre in London* 55 times in the past year. She has read 55 programmes, seen 55 *curtains rise* and eaten an undisclosed number of ice-creams. On every visit she had to write page after page of notes, but she is not a professional theatre critic. She is an ordinary member of the public on the judging panel of this year's Laurence Olivier Awards, to be presented tomorrow night at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

Mrs Hart was one of *four* theatre-lovers chosen to judge all new drama productions (excluding musicals) over the year, alongside five professionals. "It's important to have amateurs on the panel," she says. "It stops the awards becoming a put-up job like the Oscars. *And if a play wins an* award, the public know that it's been approved by people with no axe to grind."

For someone so enthusiastic *about the theatre — "just the* year before I'd been to over 30 plays, a complete mixed bag" — *this was a dream mission.* It began with an application form left on a foyer shelf by the Society of London Theatre, which organises the awards. She filled it in, added a short theatre review, and was selected from several hundred applicants.

"They were looking for people with a very wide taste in theatre," she explains. "I always enjoyed acting in plays when I was young. As a student in London I regularly bought cheap standing tickets for the West End."

In one week alone she had to review seven plays. "But I never got sick of it. Even the plays *I didn't* like always *had* some redeeming qualities."

It wasn't all fun, of course. "We had to make hefty notes on everything and I couldn't let my concentration slip. It wasn't just the actors we were judging, but also costume, design, direction, lighting and script — 12 categories in all. But I still enjoyed it. It felt like an enormous privilege."

Did the professional judges dominate the panel meetings? "Not at all. It was all very civilised and friendly," says Mrs Hart. "We were listened to, and our votes were all equal."

Theatre critics, of course, are known for their power to make or break a play. Did *managements treat her* with due respect? "I wasn't treated differently at all, although one *receptionist did optimistically* describe my pink spectacles as 'rose-tinted'."

The experience has left Mrs Hart optimistic about the state of British theatre. "It is bursting with talent on all fronts — from playwriting to direction — and there are plenty of innovative developments in productions. I personally think more new writing should be encouraged. But overall, theatre is definitely alive and kicking."

● Highlights of the Olivier Awards ceremony will be shown on BBC2 on Monday at 7.40pm

Rising son dazzles

DEE CONWAY

"A new male dancer with something of Baryshnikov's charisma and virtuosity": the spectacular Tetsuya Kumakawa with Sarah Wildor in Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove*

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

When Twyla Tharp made *Push Comes to Shove* for Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1976, its impact was enormous. The American Ballet Theatre audience was ecstatic; it knew it had just witnessed the birth of one of the *most* popular American ballets ever created. But even more important was the rebirth of its star dancer. Baryshnikov, the supreme Russian classicist, had been reinvented as a Yankee hoofer.

Two decades later, that element of surprise is long gone. But a new male dancer has emerged with something of Baryshnikov's virtuosity and charisma. His name is Tetsuya Kumakawa, and he is why Tharp has given her ballet to Covent Garden.

Unlike Baryshnikov, the Japanese-born Kumakawa is not a lofty ballet prince in need of an image makeover. But, like his Russian predecessor, Kumakawa can leap and pirouette like no one else on earth. So *Push Comes to Shove* could have been made for him, too.

The ballet opens with a Prelude in which a bowler-hatted Kumakawa struts and swaggers around the stage to the *ragtime music* of Joseph Lamb. The jazzy choreography is sexy and syncopated, *like the rhythms of the music.*

Then, without warning, we are thrown back 200 years to Haydn's *Symphony* No 82 ("The Bear") and our loveable rogue launches himself into a dizzying demonstration of classical pyrotechnics, delivered with an impish nonchalance. Of course he can do this, the choreography seems to be saying, but let's not take this ballet thing too seriously.

Kumakawa, the centrepiece of a work filled with women, is given two ballerinas in particular: *his* "big and little dates". His little date is Sarah Wildor, who leads the ensemble in *Movement II* looking every inch the dainty leading lady. *Movement III* belongs to his big *date*, Darcey Bussell, a Forties glamour girl whose strength and self-assurance are more than a match for our womanising hero. At one point Kumakawa almost drowns in *the sea of femininity*, but emerges victorious when — bowler hats flying — the ballet comes to a euphoric end.

The language is classical, but the tone is cocky. Tharp peppers her choreography with the sort of silly gestures children might exchange in the schoolyard. The symmetry *of ballet is thrown off-centre* at giddying speeds; the athletics of dance are shamelessly high*lighted; and the sobriety of* classicism is deflated by Tharp's cheeky commentary.

It's all good fun. But more than that, it's also good for the Royal Ballet. Tharp's choreography flatters the dancers and finds new facets of their performing personalities to delight us. Her ballet reveals that Wildor has a sense of humour, that Bussell is even more grown-up than we *thought*, and that although Kumakawa doesn't yet have the dramatic depth of *Baryshnikov, he is the most* amazing dancer on the Covent Garden stage.

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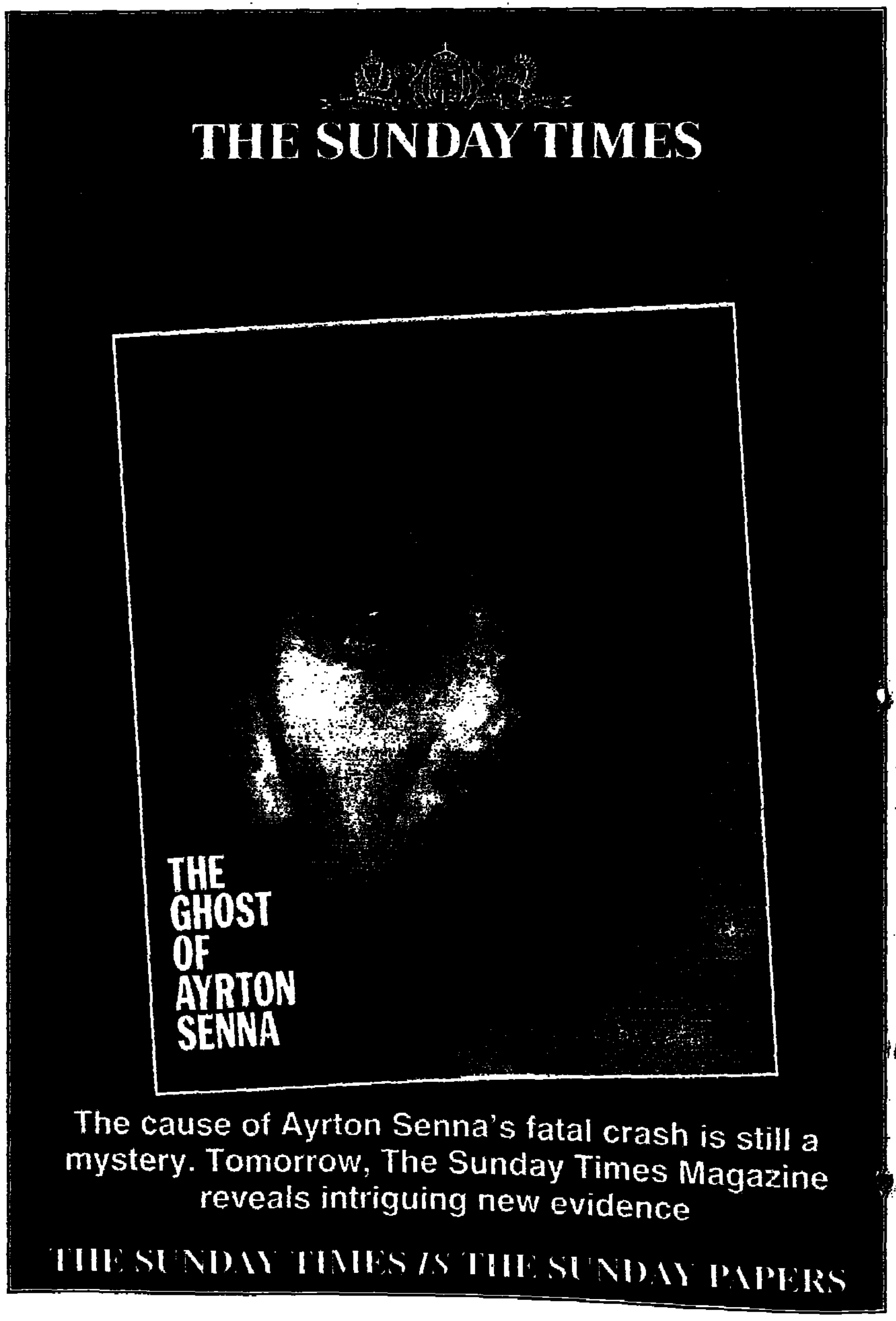

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■ OPINION

What will they think of next? Dame Kiri Te Kanawa goes trilling in the Outback

■ THEATRE 1

A walk on the wild side? Not exactly, but *Heathcliff* seems to keep the fans happy

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

The surreal circus acts of *Wolk's World* make for a crazy evening in Manchester

■ ON MON

How to make *English Patien* and the Germa happy: Geoff Brown at the Berlin Film Fe

Chablis and camel with your aria?

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Sorry, but this article is to be read only by very rich and completely mad opera-lovers with a *yearning* to travel to the other side of the world, so that they can sit in stifling desert heat listening to a soprano belting out her favourite bits of Puccini. They will also, *en passant*, be encouraged to consume *emu pâté*, kangaroo tail soup, camel *salami and* other delicacies of Antipodean cuisine. Oh yes, and they must be *free to* travel to the Australian Outback in late September — and have a gold-plated *credit card* handy, because this bizarre expedition is going to cost them plenty. Camel salami doesn't grow on trees, you know.

Still with me? I thought so. You don't have to be crazy to read *The Times* arts pages, but it helps. I am referring, of course, to Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's latest inspired career move. The Prince of Wales's favourite operatic *diva* is planning to give an outdoor concert in Yalkarinha Gorge. Er, where? Well, you turn north out of Adelaide, follow the track ... and stop after about 350 *miles*. Just like going to Glyndebourne, really, except you should allow a bit more time after crossing the Thames.

Anyway, Dame Kiri is thrilled by her *new, rustic concert venue*. "I shall be singing in the heart of Australia. A Kiwi in dreamtime," she purrs.

Indeed she will. And roughing it *with the best of them*, it seems. "Dame Kiri is going to *camp* for the weekend," exclaims an excited impresario. The spectacle of this grandest of grand-opera dames boiling the old billy for a good brew-up — *perhaps arrayed in one* of her favourite Versace creations — should be worth the price of admission alone. And 15,000 fans are expected to trek into the bush *and pay up to £350 a ticket* to see her performance.

Nevertheless, the Australians say that the Yalkarinha Gorge concert is "*just a rehearsal*" for a much bigger event planned in the Outback to coincide with the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Oh no: is this a cue for our old friends, the Three Tenors, to come *thundering* over the dusty horizon from the Bulabunga sheep-shearing station, perhaps riding in chariots drawn by specially reinforced wallabies? I can hardly wait.

Once again, however, one fears that Britain has been left behind in the race to take arias into the Great Outdoors. Do we not have a homeless opera company on our hands *for the next two years*? Instead of dashing between the Barbican, the Albert Hall and my auntie's spare bedroom, perhaps our own Royal Opera should be planning to fill its temporary exile from Covent Garden with some spectacular expedition, Kanawa-style, into the natural world. How about a production *in situ* of Strauss's discarded early sketch, *Salome of the Antarctic*? Or perhaps that little-known Wagnerian epic, *Lohengrin of Arabia*? I am sure that one of our wacky *young directors would rise to the* challenge.

Now, what do we make of Iain Sproat's brilliant bid *to win the election* for the Tories? In a move that will send shockwaves through Labour's ranks, the National Heritage Minister has suggested that the British Library should receive *not* only a copy of every book published in Britain, but also every recording, film, video and CD-Rom. He is clearly worried that posterity will be unable to form a rounded view of the Golden Age of British Culture presided over by I. Sproat and V. Bottomley if, by some horrible mischance, the tapes of *Blind Date* have been swallowed *in the mists of time*.

Great idea, Sproaty! The country has just spent 20 years, and more than £500 million, building *the new* British Library. It has been one of the biggest fiascos in British public life since ... well, since the last one. But at last it is finished. *Now* the minister decides he wants to *squeeze about ten* million CDs and a few hundred thousand films onto its shelves.

Is this the squirrel mentality gone mad? We should actually go *the other* way: *there is far too much* stuff going into our five national copyright libraries. The British Library receives 500,000 new publications a year. And we do already have *national* archives covering records, film and TV.

Of course the idea of a "storehouse of all knowledge" is a fine, ancient concept. The trouble is that *mankind's* accumulated knowledge now vastly exceeds the capacity of any conventional storehouse. Electronic storage is the answer, but the task of tran ring existing printed matte daunting, and there are n unresolved legal problems.

I believe that 90 per cent of the British Library receives c be chucked straight in the bin then, my view of copyright li ies was warped at a tender ag an undergraduate I wasted h in the tearoom of the Unive *Library in Cambridge, discus* the delicious rumour that the vast tower (to which access highly restricted) housed volumes of all the girlie maga *ever published, plus unima* ably detailed erotic novels *str* ing back to the dawn of time.

To this day I have no whether this is true. But I r pass through Cambridge wi lifting my eyes to that ma Giles Gilbert Scott tower — very symbol of Cambridge's lastic pre-eminence — and gling at the thought that, *inside, some stern* libraria standing guard over the wo greatest collection of pin-ups.

A hit with the missus

THEATRE

Heathcliff
Apollo, W6

Wear a blue rinse, my editor suggested, fearing I might otherwise be mistaken for one of the critics who had trashed this clumsy, sentimental collaboration between Emily Brontë and Cliff Richard at its premiere in *Birmingham*, and been lynched by a mob of matronly Cliffhangers.

Well, I stuck to my normal grey-brown, and ended up none the worse. The ladies were too busy cheering, and rushing *en masse* to the footlights to *fire off* the cameras we had been forbidden to use, to notice us reviewers corking up our bottles of vitriol and sneaking back to our lairs.

Whatever I add to the opinions expressed *last* October, *nice or nasty, will make no* difference. Cliff's Heathcliff is critic-proof, and clearly appeals to more than the azure-tinted. On Thursday Hammersmith's vast Apollo was packed to its garish gills with *the mix* of ages, sexes, faces and clothes you see in any British shopping mall, and is likely to remain so until the musical closes in April. You could hardly buy a Heathcliff sweatshirt or button-nosed *Heathcliff teddy-bear, such* was the throng at the sales counter at half-time.

And Cliff himself? My colleagues had a good time in Brum suggesting that Perry Como had been cast as the Antichrist, Max Bygraves as Titus Andronicus, Peter Pan as Captain Hook, Julie Andrews as Lady Macbeth and, bizarrely, John Major as a colonel in the French Foreign Legion. If they had described him as George Carey's definitive Caliban, or Bo Peep's Cruella De Vil, they could not have been more withering or implied he was less wuthering.

Actually, he is far from the weakest component in what, let's admit, is a creaky mechanism. How could as fine a director as Frank Dunlop have done so little to create the Brontë energy and feel? True, the Apollo stage is large enough to make Texas look tiny and *transform* a 19-person company into a playgroup of Lilliputians; but Yorkshire cannot be evoked by a furry walkway and the sort of ersatz rockery you find doubling as a fairy grotto in children's playgrounds. The *story* lacks momentum, tension, force, danger, sex, and much else. Overmiked voices come out of loudspeakers the wrong side of the stage. It would be an exaggeration to say that John Farrar's *music is pop pap so* lacking in pep it would give a pup the pip; but I wanted to show I could match Tim Rice's lyrics for linguistic power.

"Was he the devil incarnate; or a *misunderstood man*?" Rice asks, and Cliff gives the expected answer. He is more victim of Yorkshire's demurely waltzing nobs than villain, and more thwarted lover than obsessed stalker. But he scowls, *snarls*, roars and wails with *more commitment* than he reportedly produced in Birmingham, and might be still more effective if he were not *sidetracked* by spurious journeys to scenic Africa, China and India. He *is, as his name* forewarns, only half a Heathcliff — but isn't that better than being none at all?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Cliff Richard — here with Helen Hobson (Cathy) — is not the worst part of *Heathcliff*

Alive, but not as we know

Wolk's World
Manchester

THE world of Emil Wolk is a strange place in which to spend an *evening*. According to the *programme* notes, his latest play is set in the "deep recesses of the company's mind". For most of us it is set in David Ultz's magnificent circus *tent erected inside the Royal Exchange's* temporary home at Upper Campfield Market. (The IRA blew up the old Exchange last year.)

Here Ben Keaton's wispy-haired ringmaster introduces us to a *motley cast of circus* acts. Toby Sedgwick's Kaspar, the insane tumbler, hobbles about on crutches pretending he's Napoleon. Madame Kazeer, the voluptuous middle-aged clairvoyant, is mutton dressed as *ostrich feathers*. Joe *Montana's Superman* owes more to camp than beefcake crusaders.

And, the young, would-be gymnast Wolk? Barely have we tumbled through the opening *routine* (a small *trampoline jump on to* a large fat mattress) than the adolescent Wolk, played by the indestructible-looking Miltof Yerolemou, breaks his neck. *Suddenly*, Wolk's world lurches into a fantasy realm where anything goes, most of it kitsch circus acts and saucy seaside cabaret.

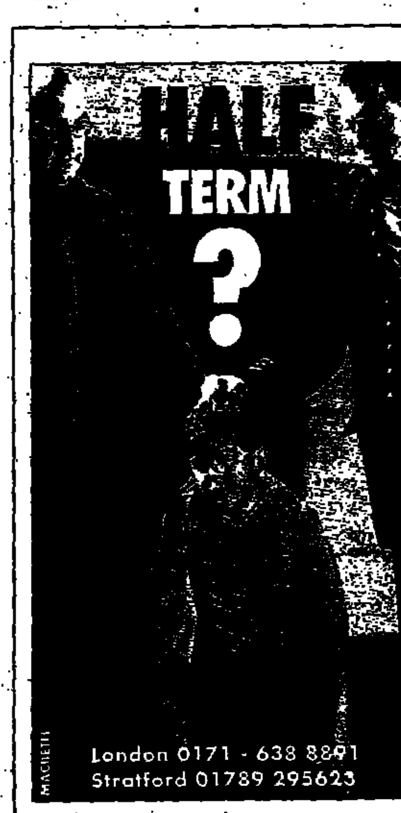
Far from cramping his style, death proves a great *liberator for young* Wolk, *who spends* the rest of the show pursuing a vision of Joan of Arc. Jacqueline Varsey plays the saint's earthly counterpart on ballet pointes, or singing lines such as "*Life is full of wonder till you're six feet under*" with operatic *sincerity*. They are comically and pointedly ill-matched.

That Wolk, the director (he doesn't act in this show), uses this whimsical relationship as *his central plank, says much* about the rest of his production. Instead of a plot, his cast revels in being dodgy impostors. They wor *melodramatic sweat se* a hopeless love scena sidetrack us with carto chases, water fight front-row flirting.

Interest in these n *suffers over the* two *quarter hours*. The however, bizarre con tions. Geraldine Mc deliciously desperate dame Kazeer is fanta over the top. And th droll *Keaton* excels, he gives a wonderful pletely false impressi he is in charge.

Wolk's World is re excuse to make and rules, a place where t *thrown together in the* making inspired conn The problem with this that you invariably with a lot of blown fu are lucky that Wolk is electrician.

J
CHRISTO



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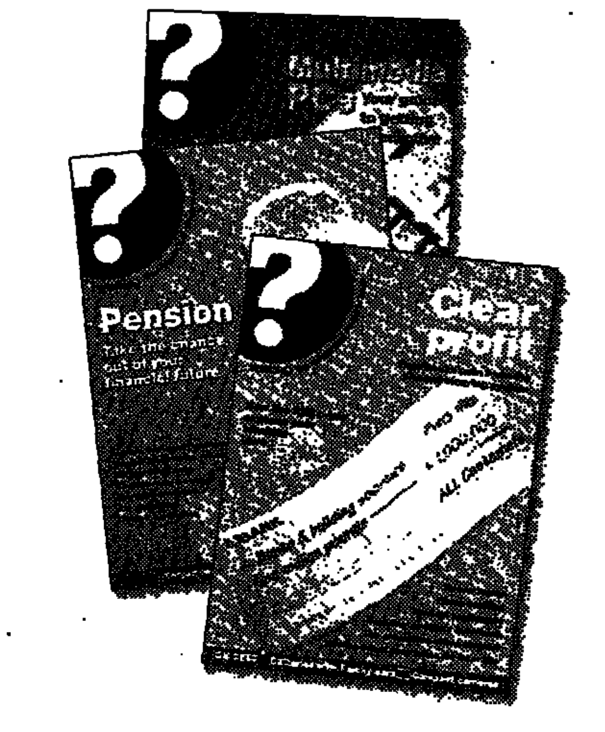

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Why the Mail should make us all uneasy

Michael Beloff says the finality of verdicts is threatened by the press

An allegation of murder is as serious a libel as can be envisaged. A banner headline in a national newspaper is as extensive an act of publication as can be imagined. Such a coincidence only usually occurs after a jury in a criminal trial have pronounced a verdict of guilty.

Yet the *Daily Mail* has levelled the charge of murder against five named white youths, who, the paper asserts, were guilty of deliberately stabbing to death the black teenager Stephen Lawrence in a racist attack in April 1993. This is despite the fact that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had earlier announced that there was "insufficient evidence" to proceed against any of them, and three of the five had been formally acquitted at a private prosecution (one of only four this century) subsequently brought; two had been discharged at the committal hearing by magistrates.

A defamatory statement can be defended by a plea of justification (or truth). According to common law in England (although not in New Zealand), a criminal conviction was inadmissible in civil proceedings as evidence of the fact that the person convicted committed the offence in question, the so-called rule in *Hollington v. Hewthorn*. The celebrated robber Alfie Hinds exploited this loophole in a famous case in 1963: but it was filled by Parliament in the Civil Evidence Act 1968. Section 13 creates a conclusive presumption in libel proceedings that a person convicted, once his offence has been proved, shall conclusively be taken to have committed the offence in question.

Such a defence, however, would not be available to the *Daily Mail* in these cases, where its very complaint is that there was no conviction.

Nor could justification be based on the verdict returned earlier this week at the resumed coroner's inquest into the Lawrence death at Southwark Coroner's Court of "unlawful killing". Not only does unlawful killing cover all cases of homicide — and not just murder — but the verdict of the coroner's jury cannot be relied upon in a civil court to establish that it was correctly returned.

Why then has the *Daily Mail* taken the risk? It has in effect invited the five named youths to test the matter in a court of law. Its headline challenges "if we are wrong, let them sue us". Since legal aid is not available for libel suits, there may be little chance of the gauntlet being taken up — although the youths are consulting their solicitors. But if it was, it would, of course, be open to the *Daily Mail* to adduce evidence to prove that what it said was true. Parliament did not accept in 1968 the recommendation of the Law Reform Committee that in defamation proceedings, evidence of an acquittal should be conclusive evidence of innocence.

The CPS under its code had to be satisfied that there was enough evidence to provide "a realistic prospect of conviction" against each defendant on each charge; and hence to consider both the admissibility and the reliability of the available evidence. It had to remember that in criminal proceedings the standard of proof required is "beyond reasonable doubt".

The *Daily Mail* is not restricted to the evidence considered by the CPS; and would bear in mind that it would need to justify on the civil standard of "balance of probabilities" only, although the courts have constantly reiterated that the more serious the matter that has to be proved even in civil litigation, the more convincing must the evidence be to support it. In reality there may be very little difference between what would be required to prove murder in the civil as distinct from the criminal courts.

There is a more significant dimension to the whole affair. The deliberate provocation of libel proceedings by persons who otherwise have fear that wrongdoing may not be exposed at all in a court of law is not novel. There are two celebrated examples in modern times. The first was the challenge laid down by the Marquess of Queensberry to Oscar Wilde when he publicly accused the writer of "posing as a sodomite". The fateful acceptance of that challenge set Wilde on the road to Reading Jail.

In 1925, one Peter Wright wrote disparagingly of the then dead Liberal statesman W.E. Gladstone, alleging that his public moral posture was at odds with his private interest in prostitutes. Gladstone's son wrote a series of letters to the secretary of the Bath Club, in which he accused Wright of being a "liar and a coward". His motive was transparent. Since no libel proceedings can be brought on behalf of a dead person, the defamer had to be made a plaintiff, not a defendant. The ruse succeeded. Wright sued for the libel in the letters: but the jury held that the defence of Lord Gladstone was made out: Wright *was* a liar and a coward. The late Prime Minister's reputation was posthumously burnished.

There are other instances of the civil law, apart from libel, being used in substitution of, or correction for, the criminal law. O.J. Simpson had awarded against him compensatory and punitive damages at a suit of the families of the victims, whom the jury in the criminal trial had earlier determined that he had not murdered. Indeed, Stephen Lawrence's family, encouraged by the inquest verdict, are said to be starting a civil action for compensation against the five youths.

Prejudgment has always been frowned on; but the *Daily Mail* article is an example of a new phenomenon: *re*judgment

It is natural to feel a sense of unease that guilty persons may walk free, or indeed never have to stand in the dock. But such reaction should be accompanied by a sense of unease when matters that should properly be before the criminal courts form the actual or potential subject matter of civil proceedings, or where the verdicts of the criminal courts are, for whatever reason, not held to be final.

Prejudgment has always been frowned upon in English law, as the strict rules on contempt of court illustrate. If the *Daily Mail* had published the present article at a time when any hearing of the Lawrence family's civil claim had been arranged, the newspaper would have been vulnerable to proceedings under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 on the basis that the publication created a substantial risk of serious prejudice to the course of justice in that forthcoming civil trial.

The growing phenomenon of which the *Daily Mail* article is an example may be classified as rejudgment: the same paper pursued the same policy in hinting strongly that Colin Stagg was the murderer of Rachel Nickell. Is it any more desirable? Finality is not the only value in any mature legal system, but it is a significant one.

Michael J. Beloff, QC, is President of Trinity College, Oxford

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Pop culture is not Christianity, says **Roger Scruton**, whatever the Church of England may say

Golden idols won't fill Anglican pews

Lord Runcie's objection to the new kind of Anglican service, in which popular culture is used to entice young people to church, has been greeted by the bishops with dismay. And it is easy to see why. For there is no unhappier situation for a priest than to minister to a dying congregation — to see the faith that he preaches rapidly slipping towards oblivion, soon to have no more living followers than the gods of Greece and Rome. Faith without hope is empty, just as hope without faith is blind. And hope needs more than other-worldly promises: it must find its living symbol in the here and now, in other words, in the minds and faces of the young.

But we should remind ourselves of certain truths. The Christian religion has been enshrined in sacred liturgies and texts, which resist emendation since they define our experience of God, and have acquired an aura of the holy and the untouchable. This has been true of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, the two great pillars of the old Anglican Church. It has been true also of the Hebrew Bible and the Sacred Service; of the Mass in its Tridentine form; of the Koran and the sacred texts of the Hindus and the Buddhists. To amend and update a religious text or ritual is to jeopardise its holiness. It is to awaken the thought that perhaps God is our creation, and can be manufactured in whatever form we choose. The solemn and inherited language of the sacred text is there to remind us of eternity, and of the absent generations who stand invisibly among us as we worship.

Moreover, the Anglican Church owes its identity to our national history and culture. Its revelation of God's purpose is adapted to the spiritual needs of English-speaking people. If the Anglican Church is severed from its history, it loses its peculiar moral standing. That is why so many people objected to the New English Bible and the Alternative Service Book: not because they were doctrinally unsound, but because they detached the Church from the culture which had grown around it, and which made it part of the English way of life.

There is no doubt that the Book of Common Prayer is not only more solemn, but also more severe than its replacements. It repeatedly reminds us of God's authority and judgment, of our own unworthiness, and of the fragility of human nature. It is inherently painful for a young person to sit through the old service of Holy Communion, even if the outcome is a kind of catharsis, as the experience of God's mercy is renewed. Without external pressures the young will avoid a church where the Book of Common Prayer is the daily diet, and where the language, music and ritual are remote from anything they encounter in the world outside.

In such circumstances, what are the clergy to do? Many young people grow up in a spiritual void, without faith or hope. Their hold on moral truth is tenuous. Their culture, if that is the word for it, is a culture of soundbites and quick fixes in which violent and sexual images play a leading part. But human beings are disposed by nature to pay homage to the holy and the numinous, and to seek for ceremonial gatherings in which they can be together in the presence of God. Young people therefore live in a state of deep frustration, the origin of which is unknown to them, since nobody has provided them with the concepts, the language or the rituals which would convey the missing idea. The temptation is to construct a new form of worship from the debris of popular culture, to give the young religion by making a religion of what they already have.

In the National Gallery hangs the painting which captures this predicament: Poussin's sublime depiction of the *Adoration of the Golden Calf*. The Israelites are dancing around the idol in poses of abandon. The priest has persuaded them that the instincts enshrined in their popular culture are sufficient to redeem them, that this lustful dancing in a happy crowd is the essence of religion, which makes no higher demand. And their faces shine with relief: the relief of those who have escaped from judgment. The austere God of Moses has been brushed aside, and a playground affection has grown in place of His harsh commandments. In the distance, diminished to an ineffectual doll, is the figure of Moses, descending from the Sinai. He dashes down the Tables of the Law, appalled that the God who prescribed them — the eternal judge of human conduct — has become incomprehensible to His people.

Idolatry places what is merely human upon an altar. It therefore automatically diminishes the object of worship and reinforces the deep-down sentiment that there is nothing higher than the human, and nothing that stands in judgment over us. Idolatry therefore leads to delinquency — and that, in a nutshell, is the condition in which we find ourselves. If the Churches are to restore faith and hope to the young, they must find the means not only of attracting young people to church, but of making them uncomfortable when they get there.

Lord Runcie is surely right to warn us against mistaking togetherness for worship. But if the old rituals are no longer intelligible to the young, with what voice can the clergy speak to them? In such circumstances, it seems to me, the Church has one overriding duty, which is to cease pandering to a popular culture rotten with idolatry, and to stand once again in judgment over it.

Is this Voltaire's last halloo?

I do not like hunting, but I will defend the right of countrymen to pursue their traditional sport

Simon Jenkins

However cruel their hunting instinct may seem, foxhounds are part of traditional British rural life

Early last Saturday I was driving down a lane near Macclesfield in Cheshire. The sun was bright but low and mist filled hollows in the countryside. As I turned a corner I faced an astonishing sight. Down the slope towards me advanced an English fox-hunt at full trot and in full regalia. The Cheshire Forest Hunt was setting out from Birtles, some 50 strong and preceded by its hounds. This is wealthy country. Riders and horses were magnificent, the spectacle exhilarating. Trollope was right. Every landscape needs a hunt.

Really? By the end of the day, Cheshire had seen the worst fighting in recent hunt history. Police were camped on every verge. Huntsmen had been assaulted, roads blocked, cars and trailers smashed and 60 people arrested. The last big weekend of the season saw unprecedented violence from more than 100 hunt saboteurs. The county was besieged by virulent balaclavas, apparently set on causing such mayhem as to render hunting no longer worth the hassle. For the rest of the day I encountered bedraggled, mud-spattered riders dispersed across the county. The splendour of the morning was gone. The Charge of the Light Brigade had become a retreat into the gloaming. The hunter had been hunted.

I have not the slightest interest in this sport. I do have a strong and principled aversion to endangering a living creature, namely myself. Galloping rough across country is proof positive that some people yearn to cheat medical science by tilting the scales of life back towards the Grim Reaper. From what I saw in Cheshire last weekend, insurance salesmen should give the county a wide berth.

Nor do I derive any pleasure from the act of killing. I do not feel Dickens's "passion for hunting something, deeply implanted in the human breast". Perhaps city living has led me too far down the evolutionary tree from hunting-gathering. The country is a primitive business and its baser instincts are made no more acceptable by being vaguely attributed to Mother Nature. I regard people who delight in killing as, in this respect, weird.

Their metaphysics are even weirder. Melvyn Bragg, one of the "luvvies on horseback", recently defended hunting on the Argument from Painlessness. Benefiting from some telepathic implant, Mr Bragg assures us that foxes feel no agony. Indeed they find the hunt exciting. I suppose the amalgamated trade union of foxes and wolves might say the same of chickens and lambs. Such hypotheses are untestable.

The Argument from Pest Control is even odder. Foxes in the country are like dogs in town, pests that people do not really want suppressed. The fox could soon be rendered extinct with the aid of terriers, traps and guns. Ask Trollope's Duke of Omnium. But then there would be none to hunt. The argument was shot to pieces by the Master of the Beaufort last week. "Stop us hunting and I guarantee there wouldn't be one fox left in 12 months," he said. As for the Argument from Employment — Britain's 150 hunts claim to support 65,000 jobs — I suppose bear-baiting and witch-burning created jobs. That hardly engages the moral issue.

Hunting has always been its own worst defence counsel. Fox-hunting is now bound to feature prominently in the next Parliament, with a passion out of all proportion to its importance. Wounds will open within and between parties. Lords will strive with Commons, town with country. Tony Blair has promised "a free vote in government time" on a Private Member's Bill banning hunting. Unless some compromise can be struck in advance, this is likely to pass. With saboteurs ready to turn every hunt into a rerun of the battle of Newbury bypass, many of this month's hunts may conceivably have been the last.

Once again we must ring the bell and summon Voltaire and his priest from retirement. To detest another man's opinions is one thing. To suppress them is quite another. This distinction is the essence of liberalism. We may believe that a person or group are profoundly wrong in what they do, but courtesy, tolerance and "do-as-you-would-be-done-by" dictate that we honour their freedom. Legal restraint is valid only where some overriding benefit to society requires it. That benefit must be more than the ending of what a majority believes to be wrong. It must also compensate for the damage done to the principle of tolerance itself. The burden of proof must be on the authoritarian.

I know of no overriding benefit from banning fox-hunting. I am sure that the sport is cruel to the fox, and society has an interest in discouraging cruelty. We ban gratuitous cruelty to animals, allowing experiments on them only where nutrition, hygiene or medical science justifies harming them. Small boys who pull wings off butterflies are told to stop. Those who see cats and dogs as pests are discouraged from shooting them. When the salmon is caught by jabbing a hook in its lip, we are advised to kill it before its lungs collapse.

Animals have no rights. Such "rights" are philosophical gibberish. Cruelty to animals upsets us partly from some vague anthropomorphism — "I would not like to be treated that way" — partly because we fear the cruelty might somehow be extended from animals to human beings. Fox-hunting is not required for food or safety. Is there not something abhorrent in this ritual of pink coats, tally-hos, gone-aways, kills and bloodings? To many townspeople, hunting unleashes the dark side of human nature. It is upmarket bear-baiting, an animalian Ku-Klux-Klan that must rot the humanity of its practitioners.

I might agree with all of this, yet still plead Voltaire from the rooftops. To claim that what the Cheshire, the Quorn or the Beaufort do to the lungs of foxes remotely affects my existence is absurd. To suggest that huntsmen are so sunk in bestiality as to need protecting from becoming serial killers is no less ridiculous. To pretend that the hunting I saw last weekend threatens British civilisation, and must therefore be declared criminal, is out of all proportion to the cruelty involved. There are worse cruelties aplenty. Hunting is merely an easy target for those who see in it all that they dislike about the landed (or nowadays the moneyed) classes.

Hunting is what some country people do. Its moral content is unaffected by whether they are rich or poor, toffs or yobs, beef-renderers or used-car salesmen. Landowners consent to this activity or they would not tolerate it. If the Government owns countryside, then it should do so in accordance with the wishes of tenants or residents in the neighbourhood, not in towns. This is subsidiarity. Fox-hunting is a traditional sport of rural Britain. I am sure urban Britain does things to animals that might deeply offend country folk. (In my part of town we poison rats horribly, neuter cockroaches, boil lobsters and shoot and rob the nests of Canada geese.) I expect country people to keep their noses out of my leisure pursuits. The least I can do is keep mine out of theirs.

Which means that for Labour to offer a "free vote in government time" to a fox-hunting ban defies that party's albeit patchy tradition of moral libertarianism. It is the new centralism with yet another twist. So does this mean that I would un-ban the equally traditional, but working-class, blood sport of cockfighting? If that is what people who live in the cockfighting parts of the country really want, yes.

Bottoms up

AS HERITAGE Minister, Virginia Bottomley has shown an impressive enthusiasm for her brief and, despite the prospect of a Labour government, she doesn't appear to be letting up. After bumping into some painters recently, she requested membership of the Chelsea Arts Club. They are considering her request and word is that she will be made an honorary member, joining the likes of John Cleese and Damien Hirst.

Bottomley: clubbable

The Arts Club, an institution populated by florid-faced artisans who would be at home in a Breughel painting, has a long waiting list and Virginia's membership is likely to be contentious.

However, when presenting the £10,000 Hunting Art Prize to Martin Fuller, a fine draughtsman, earlier this month she found she was surrounded by club members. So she applied for membership there and then — acknowledging with self-effacing concern that she might not be directly concerned with the arts for much longer.

Yesterday the club, which insists on artistic pedigree for its members, refused to discuss the matter. Mrs Bottomley herself was also unavailable. When she shows up for her first night at the bar, however, she should bone up for some pretty sharp words from members on the hot topic of abolishing business rates on artists' studios.

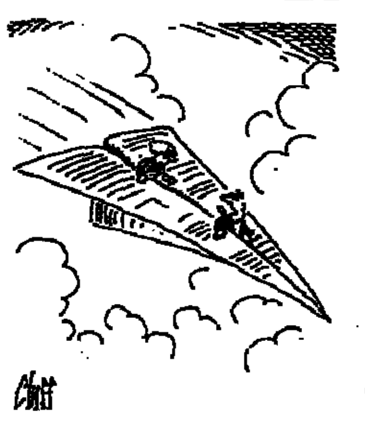
THE TIMES DIARY

● *Some drink coffee and smoke, others take ginseng. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, keeps his energy up with cheese and gherkin sandwiches. To devour gherkins is a bad breath nightmare. Perhaps this explains the healthy distance kept between Mawhinney and reporters at Central Office press conferences.*

Dalai Dobbs

ADDING a spiritual dimension to the Tory election campaign will be Michael Dobbs, the lifelong party stalwart and political novelist. Perhaps in preparation for this role Dobbs, creator of television's arch-Machiavellian Prime Minister Francis Urquhart, is in India to visit the Dalai Lama. He is accompanied by his wife of 16 years 'O-Sel Nyima, a converted Buddhist who is to be ordained a lama in March. Central Office was not expanding on the subject yesterday: "He's fulfilling a spiritual role in the campaign," a spokesman said.

● *The heady whiff of rebellion is back at the London School of Economics where government ministers are habitually greeted with rotten eggs. On his first address to the Students' Union, the new Director, Professor Anthony Giddens, had to dodge a hail of missiles from his audience. The bombardment of paper darts and bombs was set off by his confession that he "knew bugger-all about the Spice Girls".*



"Are you on one of these £10 tickets too?"

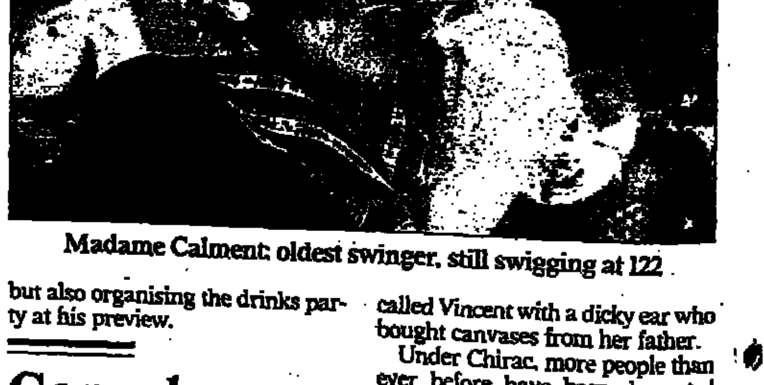
Homecoming

A TOUCHING gesture in St Valentine's week comes from Beryl Bainbridge, the author who many believe should have won the Booker Prize. She is temporarily reunited with her husband, Austin Davies, from whom she separated nearly 40 years ago.

Davies, an artist who lives in Australia, is lodging for a few weeks at Beryl's home in Camden, north London, because he has an exhibition just south of Tower Bridge.

Bainbridge, who works at her typewriter in white gloves to keep the nicotine off her fingers, has many admirers. Not least among them is Lord Wyatt of Weeford, who met her at a party a few years ago and began a vigorous courtship.

However, she still enjoys the company of her former husband, not only welcoming him back home but also organising the drinks party at his preview.



Madame Calment: oldest swinger, still swigging at 122

Gong show

ADVISERS to President Chirac are telling him that it is high time that France honoured Madame Jeanne Calment, the oldest woman in the world, who will be 122 next Friday. Born in 1875, she has seen out 16 French Presidents and now lives in a retirement home in Arles where she has dim recollections of a chap called Vincent with a dicky ear who bought canvases from her father.

Under Chirac, more people than ever before have been decorated with the Légion d'honneur and he rushed to award a posthumous Grand Croix, the highest class in the order, to Pamela Harriman, but still Madame Calment's bosom remains unadorned. He must act quickly, or else he will find himself having to make another posthumous award.

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TWO WRONGS

The wrong way for a newspaper to counter injustice

The vigilante is both an understandable and an unattractive creature. The English law may sometimes produce outcomes that barely resemble justice. That, by itself, does not excuse individuals or groups from putting themselves above the law and infringing the rights of others.

The press has traditional responsibilities to counter injustice. But before embarking on a campaign such as the *Daily Mail* launched yesterday, newspapers have responsibilities to establish the facts first. Their campaigns should be founded on investigation, not on threat or bluster. The road to anarchy is paved by self-styled law enforcers; so too, the cause of justice is at risk from self-appointed special prosecutors.

The *Daily Mail* yesterday named and labelled five white youths as the racially-motivated murderers of Stephen Lawrence. In doing so it has thrown down a gauntlet and won praise from many who rightly hate racism wherever it occurs. The newspaper itself conceded that the action was "unprecedented" and "no light matter". It acknowledged that the affair had twice come before a court of law and failed on each occasion. Despite that, it felt that the transparent failure of British justice demanded the dramatic move of inviting those it accused to sue the paper for libel if they dared.

There have been many unsatisfactory aspects of this saga. One case collapsed when the Crown Prosecution Service decided that it had insufficient evidence. The subsequent private prosecution for murder also fell when critical evidence was ruled inadmissible. The closest that matters have come to a genuine contest was the inquest this week, when a jury swiftly determined that Mr Lawrence had been unlawfully killed. Four years after the attack, no one has had to face imprisonment and in all probability no one ever will. Every one must feel the deepest of sympathies with the Lawrence family: those who know them must feel it most deeply of all.

That does not, however, justify the *Daily Mail* in intervening in this way. It was hardly the only course open to the paper. It could have laid out the circumstantial evidence that implicates the five. Readers could then have drawn their own conclusion. Instead it directly denounced them as murderers.

Their targets may, indeed, retaliate through the libel courts. But this is not as easy as it may seem. Legal aid is not available for such litigation. The newspaper had good reason to predict that its dare would not be answered: the men do not have the money to mount a challenge. The press plays a dangerous game when it abuses the right of free speech and sets out to destroy an individual's reputation without constructing a factual and convincing case.

None of this will help the Lawrence relatives. Indeed it could complicate matters further. It raises the prospect of two trials, both in effect for murder but neither under that name. The parents could initiate a civil action against the five by charging them with assault and battery. A judge sitting alone would decide whether the preponderance of evidence matched that claim and award financial damages accordingly.

Meanwhile, a parallel case might occur in which the five sued the *Daily Mail* for destroying their reputations. In this instance a jury would determine whether the "murderers" headline was justified. In doing so they would be advised that the term "murderer" requires both that the event occurred and that murderous intent existed. It is not impossible that, with such different rules of engagement, contradictory conclusions might emerge. This would hardly assist the cause of justice.

An appalling crime has already seen two trials and an inquest. The risk now is of tragedy turned into legal farce. The O. J. Simpson experience is not one we should wish to see repeated in our courts. The media bore much of the responsibility for that Californian circus. Even in this, one of the most moving and worthy of cases, all newspapers should act with restraint. Their place lies in the press gallery, not as advocates for the prosecution.

WITHOUT A CREW

A technological salute to the film-makers of tomorrow

There are two kinds of movie-making. The first involves a budget adjacent to the gross national product of a small country and stars who will not get out of bed for less than $10 million. Then add armies of hairdressers, grips, best boys, gofers and gaffers; pay for laboratories of boffins to devise ever more special "special effects"; and BUT FAR hire marketing teams to sell the film to mass audiences from Ankara to Zurich. That is the classic Hollywood way, and it brings massive rewards if the formula is right. *Independence Day*, last year's top box-office draw, is likely to become the first film in history to earn a billion dollars.

Then there is another, more romantic way. At the age of 23, Robert Rodriguez was desperate to make a movie, but had no formal training, contacts or money. He raised the latter by becoming a guinea-pig for medical experiments; he borrowed an Arriflex film camera from an acquaintance; and he set off for Mexico to make a film which he singlehandedly wrote, directed, dubbed and edited. His actors were friends, relatives and villagers. The total cost was $7,000. But the resulting film, *El Mariachi*, brought supplicants from top Hollywood studios to Rodriguez's door and catapulted him to fame.

His subsequent book, *Rebel Without a Crew*, is now a bible for the thousands of young Britons who want to make movies. If you have ingenuity, determination and flair, Rodriguez tells them, you can solve the problems which, on a Hollywood film-set, would be "washed away with the money hose". As he wryly points out, for a young film-maker "there are never any budget problems because there's no budget".

This week *The Times* has launched a competition to celebrate young film-makers, their freshness, their energy and their ambition. Rodriguez's success was exceptional, but not unique. *Citizen Kane*, arguably the greatest movie of them all, was made by Orson Welles at the age of 25. And there have been huge advances in camera technology since Welles's day. High-quality video and film equipment is now available even to youngsters with limited finances.

No longer is it necessary to employ a crew for three months or more. The best independent films today are made on the hoof, with hand-held cameras, instant takes, instinctive angles, and the rough edges left in. The rawness is part of the appeal and a welcome antidote to Hollywood sheen. There is no shortage of outlets for talented young film-makers. And the revolution has only just begun. Soon independent film-makers may be liberated not only from the big studios but from mainstream distributors as well. If feature films can be transmitted through the Internet, film-makers can bypass the cinema chains and dispatch their epics instantly to their fans.

That momentous change lies in the future. For the moment our competition (on page 47) will equip one aspiring director with an Arriflex camera and, we hope, inspire many others to action. Britain's current crop of movie-makers confirmed their world-class stature this week with a bumper haul of Oscar nominations. The next generation are already crashing through the door — their ideas unruly, their techniques unrefined, their potential unlimited. We look forward to being shocked, dazzled and mesmerised.

MICRO, MICRO, ON THE WALL

Who is the richest of them all?

"The possessions of new families are commonly exaggerated in the public mind, while those of long established families are as commonly diminished": or so James Fenimore Cooper noticed 150 years ago. He would not have been surprised by the news that, at the tender age of 42, the software tycoon Bill Gates is worth £18 billion. Some have even said that the glitterati of the mouse, pentium chip and CD-Rom have become the richest men who ever lived, not merely the richest men in the world today. Are they right?

Today's billionaires run complex companies and hold the bulk of their wealth in shares. The best-known — or the least reticent — are American. The closest Britain can come to Mr Gates's total is the estimated £4 billion worth of the retired Swedish brothers who founded the packaging firm Tetrapak and came to live here in the 1980s.

Modern Americans have the benefit of the world's largest economy. But US billionaires also operate under anti-trust laws which inhibit their companies' growth and restrict their ability to use company money to expand their private wealth. These worries did not slow down the 19th-century American buccaneers who developed the communication superhighways of their time, cornering markets to supply fuel for cars and steel for railways. Although a tendency to grandiose exaggeration makes estimations of Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Mellon and Rockefeller wealth an inexact science, even working from the sums which such men gave away to good causes, they may have been richer men than Mr Gates.

When J. P. Morgan bought Carnegie Steel from its founder Andrew Carnegie, Morgan handed over a cheque for $480 million, worth £17.5 billion in today's money, with the words, "Congratulations Mr Carnegie, you are the richest man in the world." The big difference between Mr Carnegie and Mr Gates, whose assets are mostly not liquid but in Microsoft shares, came later. Over the next decade, the Scottish immigrant gave $350 million away, endowing 3,000 libraries along the way. By the time of his death in 1937, John D. Rockefeller had given away $500 million, worth £14.1 billion today. But Mr Rockefeller is supposed to have been worth $855 million at the end of his life. That sum, £24.04 billion in today's money, would have put Bill Gates in the shade.

In earlier centuries there was probably not enough wealth for anyone to be compared with Mr Gates. How rich was Croesus? It is hard to say. There was certainly much less to buy with his money. The unregulated 19th century was the heyday of the billionaire. The 20th century has been good — but not perhaps quite such a congenial climate for men and women who want to be seriously rich.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for EU code on arms exports

From the Bishop of Coventry and others

Sir, February 15 is the anniversary of the publication of the Scott report. At that time we wrote to *The Times*, calling on the Government to heed its lessons and "never again allow short-term commercial gain to override international peace and security" in decisions on weapons sales.

A year later we feel compelled to write again. Little has happened in the intervening period to give us any indication that irresponsible arms exports to unscrupulous regimes are a thing of the past. Indeed, the Government recently announced that the British defence industry captured a record quarter of the global arms market in 1996 (News in brief, February 1).

Many of these sales are to countries in regions of instability and to regimes with poor human rights records. For example, it is deeply regrettable that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Belo (report, October 12, 1996; leading article, October 14) was followed by the grant of further licences to export British weapons to Indonesia.

The tragedy of Dunblane forced British politicians to confront the link between the availability of guns and the number of firearms deaths in our society. Yet the acceptance of this link sits uneasily alongside a willingness to export vastly more destructive weapons to some of the poorest countries in the world.

The oft-cited argument against tougher arms export controls is, "If we don't sell, someone else will". In the aftermath of Scott the Government engaged in a process of consultation about the future of UK arms export controls. We are not yet convinced that sufficiently stringent criteria have been implemented.

Action at both national and international level is required. Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Ireland all support a restrictive European arms export policy and pressure is mounting for the introduction of a European code of conduct on the arms trade at the current EU inter-governmental conference. The code would help prevent weapons sales to regions of instability, countries which abuse human rights, military aggressors and dictatorial regimes.

The code will simply not happen, however, without the support of Britain. Once the shackles of general electioneering have been cast aside one of the greatest challenges for the new government, of whichever party, will be to take a lead on this initiative. This important chance should not be missed.

Yours faithfully,
†SIMON COVENTRY,
†DAVID LIVERPOOL,
†RICHARD OXON:,
c/o Safer World,
33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.
February 13.

Forces manpower

From Rear-Admiral Hugh Tracy

Sir, Mr Noel Falconer's simplistic "demonstration" of the number of top people needed in the Armed Forces (letter, February 10) cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

First, "combat units" are not by any means the only groups that require executive leadership. In these days of ever more complex weapons and machinery, what is often unkindly described as "the tail" is almost more important than the "sharp end" units which operate the equipment. With automation, the size of combat units has been much reduced, whilst the officer manpower required to deal with the complexities of planning, design, supply and administration has increased greatly.

It may be possible, when there is an emergency or some other need to expand our forces, to recruit untrained manpower, but its effectiveness will entirely depend on a supply of experienced officers, including senior ones.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH TRACY,
21a Sion Hill, Bath.

Concorde offer

From Mr Myer Lacome

Sir, It was impossible to get through to British Airways last night (letter, February 13). So, on my way to the bathroom at 4am, I tried again — all the Concorde flights had gone.

This is ridiculous, I then thought. Here I am, naked and cold with a credit card in my hand, hoping to win an uncomfortable seat in an aluminium tube on its way to a bitterly cold New York in February.

So, if Richard Branson is reading this, I am willing — in fact eager — to travel Virgin first-class return in June, and am prepared to pay £11 for the extra space and comfort.

We don't mind if it takes a little longer as it's our 44th wedding anniversary and we shall enjoy a second bottle of champagne.

Yours faithfully,
MYER LACOME,
4 Campbell's Close
(Off Royal Mile), Edinburgh.
February 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Resolving West Lothian question

From Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Simon Jenkins (article, February 12) has rightly pointed out that the West Lothian question is no different from the South Armagh question.

When I was first elected to the House of Commons in 1973 the Stormont Parliament was still in operation and Ulster MPs sat at Westminster, where they could ask questions about health in England which, in their own constituencies, were matters for the Northern Ireland government.

I never heard a single word of complaint from the Conservative Party about their Ulster Unionist colleagues having the right to ask such questions. Indeed, they made one of them a minister in the Department of Employment, where he had to answer questions relating to jobs in England which he could not have asked about his own constituency.

Those who claim to be Unionists, as well as those of us who believe in a federal UK, have to recognise that constitutional arrangements are never models of neatness or symmetry.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN BEITH,
House of Commons.
February 12.

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir, There is one more lie about Scottish devolution to be added to the list so elegantly nailed by Simon Jenkins. It is frequently put about by Tory party spokesmen that when English voters wake up to the privileges being accorded to a Scottish parliament they "will not stand for it" and will angrily reject the whole scheme.

As a voter with an impeccably English pedigree (albeit like many others with distant Scottish antecedents) may I assure Messrs Major, Forsyth & Co that far from feeling angry about what the Labour Party is proposing I believe it to be the least that should be offered to the Scottish people in recognition of their dogged devotion to a Union that they entered into with understandable reluctance.

It is clear to most of us, if not to the unfortunate Mr Stephen Dorrell (leading article, "Dorrell drowning", February 11), that in many important respects Scotland is as different from the rest of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland and that it is high time to recognise that fact by giving it a forum in which those differences can find legitimate political — and if the Scots so wish financial — expression.

Yours etc,
DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, N1.
February 12.

From Mr A. J. Wilde

Sir, One approach to the apparently intractable West Lothian question may be to hold a referendum in England, before the referendum for a Scottish assembly, which would pose the question:

> In the event of Scotland voting for its own parliament, do you wish Scottish MPs to have the right to vote on English affairs while English MPs are denied similar rights in Scotland?

Only when the inevitable "no" vote is recorded will the true absurdity of having separate parliaments within the UK finally sink in.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. WILDE,
29 Florida Fields,
Castle Cary, Somerset.
February 11.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, In one respect Stephen Dorrell is right. When a Scottish parliament is in place it would be absurd for Scottish MPs to continue to attend the Westminster Parliament while English MPs would be denied election to the Scottish parliament.

But as the Scottish parliament would be legislating on almost everything except foreign affairs and defence, and as Scottish MPs at Westminster would always be outvoted, what need is there for having them there? What is wrong with joint working parties from the two parliaments, to discuss whatever issues need resolving between them?

Yours faithfully,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown, Avebury, Wiltshire.
February 11.

Common visions of the two cultures

From Dr J. H. Mulvey, Executive Secretary of the Save British Science Society

Sir, Melvyn Bragg's brilliant "And the winner is . . . a British scientist" (Arts, February 10) couples an appreciation of the outstanding achievements of British scientists and engineers with the recognition that their efforts are every bit as much a part of building the nation's cultural heritage as are those made by the arts community.

Contrary to popular misconceptions, the originality, flair, insight and sheer hard graft, mixed with inspiration, required for success in science are not different in kind from those needed by authors, composers, artists and others. They are just applied within a different discipline.

The message from Melvyn Bragg is that "Science" and "Arts" are partners, both exciting new visions and perspectives in the mind's view of the world. Melvyn offers a welcome bridge.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MULVEY,
Executive Secretary,
Save British Science Society,
SBS, Box 241, Oxford OX1 3QQ.
February 10.

From the President of the Institute of Physics

Sir, Science and engineering are usually in the headlines only on an occasion of tragedy or failure. By contrast, there has been remarkably little media celebration of the continuing success of our scientists, culminating in the recent award of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry to Sir Harry Kroto, of Sussex University (report, October 10, 1996). Such intellectual achievements determine our future wealth, and with it the resources to develop the other dimensions which fulfil our humanity.

In the face of one-sided reporting, we should not be surprised that the number of young people choosing to study the sciences is in decline. Physics departments in our universities are closing, engineering departments are unable to attract enough able young students. The scenario which Bragg so accurately describes will have consequences — for science, for our national wealth and for the arts.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN MANLEY,
President,
The Institute of Physics,
76 Portland Place, W1.
February 11.

Beeton beaten?

From Mr Quentin Crewe

Sir, Your account of Mrs Beeton's passionate love for her husband Samuel (report and photographs, February 11) makes their relationship sound rather touching. I cannot help feeling that her nine-year marriage must have been very different.

Beeton was undoubtedly a man of perverted tastes. One of the magazines he published used to be kept by the British Museum in what was known as the "Private Case", ie, not to be shown without good reason on the grounds of its pornographic content.

A glance at the letters pages of *The English Gentlewoman's Magazine* revealed that the correspondence on the spurring of horses (with much description of blood) ran for many months. So did the subject of "tight-lacing". Longest of all was the question of "the chastisement of young girls". It was not hard to detect, from the oft-repeated phrases about the girls looking up at their tormentor with wide eyes, that all the letters were written by the same hand.

It is not surprising that the innocent Mrs Beeton devoted so much of her time in writing a book of guidance for young brides.

Yours faithfully,
QUENTIN CREWE,
9 Bliss Mill,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

Pews and popcorn

From the Reverend D. M. Greenhalgh

Sir, The church referred to by Mrs Ann Hale, in which all seats were declared free in 1876 (letter, February 8; see also letters, February 5, 6), may have been assisted by the Incorporated Church Building Society, founded 1818. Such free access is a condition of help from this society.

In most parish churches, I believe that pew rents may still legally be charged, though the custom is disused in these days.

In *Clergymen of the Church of England* (1866) Trollope has an interesting chapter on town incumbents whose livelihood mainly depended on pew rents. Their personality and sermons had to be popular.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREENHALGH,
3 Cricket Lawns,
Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire.
February 9.

From Mr John Anderson

Sir, The letting of pews in churches and chapels was once common.

I have a seating plan for a new Congregational chapel at Northwich, Cheshire, dated July 1882. The proposed quarterly rents for the pews ranged from 4s (20p) for the back stalls to 3s for the front stalls and 2s 6d for the awkward corners either side of the pulpit. The architects were Maxwell and Tuke, who also designed Blackpool Tower.

In an advertisement for letting pews in the Wesleyan Chapel at Congleton, dated April 1808, the most expensive seats were in the front row of the gallery, equivalent, I suppose, to the dress circle in a theatre.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ANDERSON,
The Chapel Museum,
Chapel Bank, Mow Cop,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

How to safegua bequests of lan

From Professor D. G. Barnsley

Sir, Judicial decisions over the suggest that Mrs Watson's fath law, whose charitable bequests c houses were subsequently sold b beneficiaries [letter, February 1 also letters, February 6, 8, 13] ha been the only person whose mentary intentions have been t ted. How to safeguard a gift (or d of land from its subsequent sa *these circumstances is a complex* in English law.

It is a cardinal principle of our law that property should be free ienable (transferable). It is not *sible for a testator to attach a c* ion to a devise of land which se prevent the beneficiary from selli Such a restraint is said to be con to public policy.

However, a similar result m achieved indirectly. It would be sible, for example, to leave a ho the University of X for the reside its Vice-Chancellor and to atta condition that should the house to be used for such a purpose, th property should pass to another ficiary. This is known in law as over. The prospect of losing the erty would normally act as an i *tive for the university to abide b* testator's wishes.

Careful drafting of the will be essential to ensure that the gif to the other beneficiary took effec *ing the time limit allowed by th* for this type of gift. This woul course, be a matter for consider by the solicitor preparing the wi

Yours faithfully,
D. G. BARNSLEY,
University of Leicester,
Faculty of Law,
University Road, Leicester.
February 12.

From Mr D. I. Williams

Sir, I believe that the charitable i of Sir Angus Watson's bequest house to the City of Newcastle Tyne has been preserved. The h remained in use as a children's *valescent home until 1980, whe reorganisation of children's ser* in our hospitals made it redun Efforts were made to find altern uses consistent with the origina but to no avail, and the Charity mission was consulted and the h sold.

The proceeds of sale constitute endowment of a fund for the ben children who are sick or convale and who are, or have been, in th of hospitals within the city.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK WILLIAMS
(Secretary),
Newcastle University Hospitals
Special Trustees,
Royal Victoria Infirmary,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
February 12.

Bookfair fire

From Mr Matthew Evans

Sir, At 3.25pm on February 3 the cutta Bookfair burnt down (New brief, February 4). Behind this statement lies the fact that in just 40 minutes fire, aided by a st wind, *burnt down more than* publishers' stands, killing one pe and injuring 44.

The 22-strong delegation of Br publishers, led by me, were we sured and their livelihoods were *threatened by what had happe* However, of the 600 or so stands troyed about 400 were manne small publishers, publishing in gali, whose stands were not insu In many cases money had been *rowed to exhibit at the fair.*

Book-purchasing in Calcutta quite different from elsewhere. T are very few bookshops in the city the fair is the focal point of the yea these small publishers, where the about 50 per cent of their annual iness. Many if not most of them been ruined by the fire and in inative ways must be devised to them back on their feet.

In consultation with the Br Council in Calcutta those British lishers who attended the fair started a fund to help the smaller ian publishers. We hope that eno money will be raised to alleviat *some small way the horrific bu* on firms which lost everything.

Yours sincerely,
MATTHEW EVANS,
c/o Publishers Association,
19 Bedford Square, WC1.

Silks' purses

From Mr Geoffrey Bernstein

Sir, I was surprised to read the o ion of Messrs Stanley Brodie, D Hunt and Jonathan Harvie (all Q *in today's letters page, on the sul* of Lord Lester of Herne Hill's ation. Whilst admirably concise clearly expressed, this opinion surely work for junior counsel, *requiring even one QC, let a* three. It must be very dishearten for young, struggling members o Bar to find that the stars of the pr sion are prepared to take on *mundane work such as this.*

I dread to think what the bi going to look like, when you recei

Yours faithfully,
G. D. BERNSTEIN,
Geoffrey Bernstein & Co,
162 Regents Park Road, Finchley,
February 14.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 14: The Viscount of Arbuthnott was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, today attended the Outward Bound General Council at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin Dunne).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 14: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning opened the Manchester Carers Centre, Beswick House, Beswick Row, Manchester City Centre, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Unipack Limited and opened the new pharmaceutical facility at Lancaster Way, Wingates Industrial Park, Westhoughton, Bolton.

School news

Cargilfield School
The Governors of Cargilfield School, Edinburgh, announce the appointment of Mr Andrew Morrison as Headmaster from September 1997. Mr Morrison is currently Under Master at Charterhouse and was previously Headmaster of Mowden Hall, Northumberland.

Lochinver House School, Potters Bar
Lochinver House School celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. The Midsummer Magic Ball, in celebration of this milestone in the school's history, will take place on June 21, 1997, at the School. All current parents, past parents, Old Boys and friends of the school are most welcome to attend. For further information please contact the School on 01707 653064 and details will be forwarded to you.

Memorial service

Lady Elibank
A memorial service for Lady Elibank was held yesterday at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Sunninghill, Berkshire. The Rev T.W. Gunter officiated. The Hon Tim Erskine-Murray son, and Miss Sarah Dennis, niece, read the lessons. The Rev Richard Tice gave an address.

Mr Mark Dobell, tenor, sang Harry Lauder's *Keep right on to the end of the Road.*

Luncheon

Maple Leaf Club
Miss Margaret Drabble was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Maple Leaf Club held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Judith M. Steiner, chairman, presided. Mrs Margaret Coleman, President of the Canadian Women's Club, also spoke.

Institute of Physics

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Physics:

Dr Tim Bruton, BP Solar, Sunbury-on-Thames; Professor Christopher Chatwin, Sussex University; Dr Paul Ewart, Oxford University; Professor Robert Green, Sheffield Hallam University; Professor Stephen Holloway, Liverpool University; Dr Mario Jakas, Universidad de la Laguna, Tenerife.

Mr Andrew McCormick, Braidfield High School, Clydebank; Professor John Mainstone, Queensland University, Australia; Dr Abdul Malik, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Dr Colin Martin, West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust; Dr Jeffrey Penfold, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot; Professor Sung Ho Choh, Korea University, Seoul, South of Korea; Mr Mark Ware, Publishing Director, Institute of Physics Publishing, Bristol.

University news

Oxford
Somerville College
Timothy Walker, *Horti Praefectus* of the University Botanic Garden, has been appointed to an Ernest Cook Lectureship in Conservation Biology from January 1.

Elections:
Richard Elliott Jonathan Elliott (formerly of Oundle School), to a Bull Exhibitionn in Classics and Modern Languages.

Corinna Liddle (Bradford Grammar School) to a Pope Exhibition in Modern Languages.

Glenn Brian Nesbitt (Royal School, Armagh), Tracy Anne Payton (King's School, Gloucester) and Christopher Michael Prestwich (Durham Johnston Comprehensive School) to Coombs Exhibitions in Modern History.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Mr John Adams, composer, 50; Mr Clive Aslet, Editor, *Country Life*, 42; Sir Nicholas Bayne, diplomat, 60; Sir Harold Beeley, diplomat, 88; Sir William Bentley, diplomat, 70; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 66; Mr Tony Bloom, deputy chairman, Sketchley, 58; Sir Stephen Brown, former chairman, Stone-Platt Industries, 91; Earl of Carlisle, 48; Mr Derek Conway, MP, 44; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 56; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court judge, 74; Mr Frank Dunlop, former director, Edinburgh International Festival, 70; the Countess of Dysart, 83; Mr Paul Ferris, author, 68; Mr John Greenway, MP, 51; Mr Gerald Harper, actor and broadcaster, 68; the Earl of Jersey, 87; Professor Andrew Miller, Principal, Stirling University, 61; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 77; Mr C.F. Payne, former Chief Constable, Cleveland, 67; Sir William Reid, former Ombudsman, 66; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 46; Miss Clare Short, MP, 51; Mr P.J. Squire, former Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 60; Sir Adrian Swire, chairman, John Swire and Sons, 65; Lord Justice Ward, 59; the Right Rev R.W. Woods, former Bishop of Worcester, 83.

TOMORROW:
Mr Paul Bailey, novelist, 60; Mr P.E.R. Bailey, former director, Gatwick and Stansted Airports, 72; Mr Iain Banks, author, 43; Mr James Beaton, GC, 54; Professor Robin Clark, FRS, chemist, 62; Mr Arthur Crook, former Editor, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 85; Mr F.G.R. Cuming, painter, 67; Sir Anthony Dowell, ballet dancer, director, Royal Ballet, 54; Mr David Emms, former director, London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, 72; Professor J.R. Farndon, consultant surgeon, 51; Mr David Griffiths, portrait painter, 58; Mr Peter Hain, MP, 47; Viscount Hanworth, 51; Professor Jack Levy, mechanical engineer, 71; Mr John McEnroe, tennis player, 38; Sir Michael Milne-Watson, former chairman, Bupa, 87; Mr J.D. Moore, Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, 54; Mr Peter Porter, poet, 68; Mr John Schlesinger, film director, 71; Sir James Swaffield, former director-general and Clerk to the GLC, 73; Dr J. Tobin, anaesthetist, 83; Sir Peter Webster, former High Court judge, 73; Mr Nunc Willcox, former chairman, the Garrick, 70.

Service dinners

HMS Victory
Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mrs Portillo were among the guests at a dinner held last night onboard *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Cape St Vincent. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host. The Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and Honorary Colonel Royal Regiment of Wales was among others present.

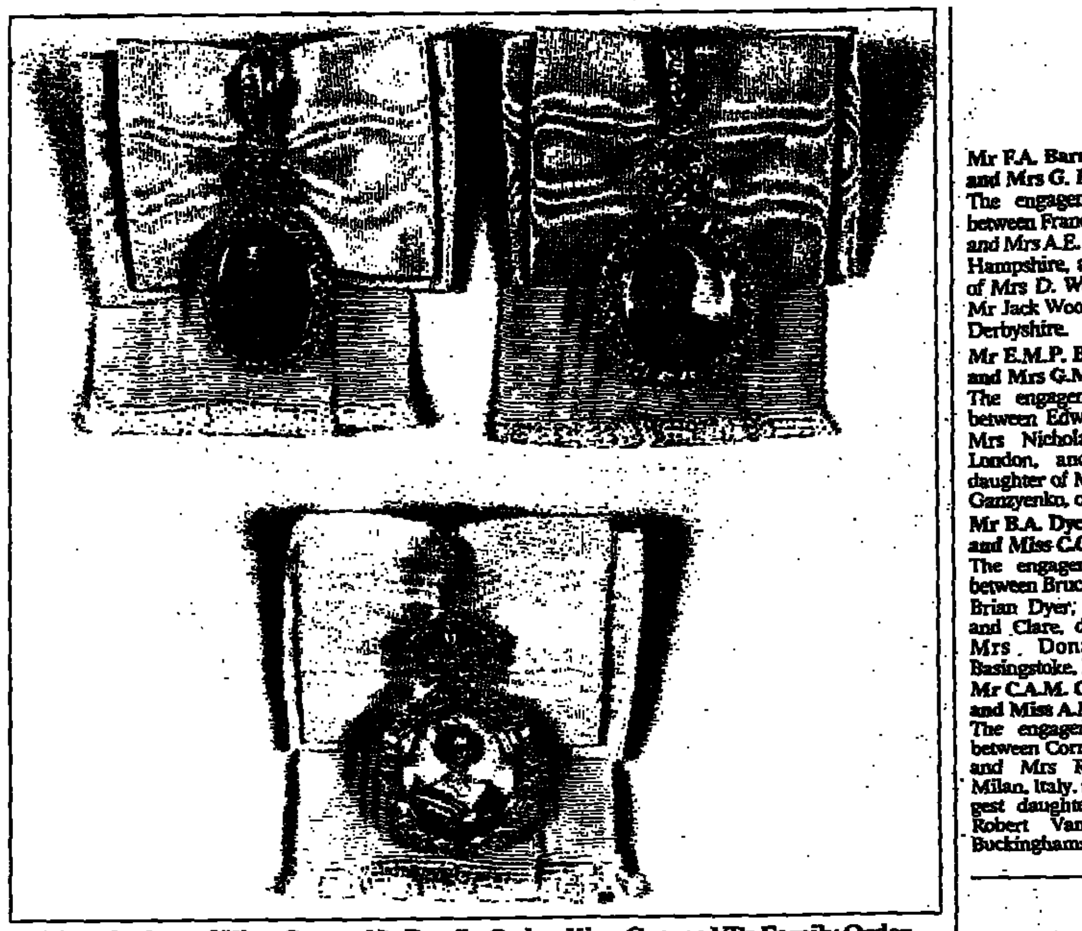
HMS Nelson
The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire was the guest of honour at a ladies night Valentine's dinner held last night onboard *HMS Nelson* on the bicentenary of the Battle of Cape St Vincent. Commander J.R. Wills presided.

HMS Collingwood
The Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham attended a ladies night dinner held last night onboard *HMS Collingwood*. Commander Jeff Blackett, Executive Officer, presided. Mr Chris Kelly was the guest of honour. Rear-Admiral J.G. Tolhurst, Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland and Naval Base Commander Clyde, and Mrs Tolhurst were among the guests.

Dinners

Gardeners' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs and their ladies were present at a livery and ladies dinner of the Gardeners' Company held last night at Mansion House. Mr I.B. Flanagan, master, presided. Mr R.P. Franklin, Upper Warden, the Lord Mayor, and Dr Phil Dineen, Headmistress of Woldingham School, also spoke. Among the guests were the Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow and Mrs Macgregor, the Master of the Fruiterers' Company and Mrs Tullett, and the Clerk of Zunft zu Gartnern Basel.

Farriers' Company
Mr Thomas L. Barker, Master of the Farriers' Company, assisted by Mrs D.M. Pagan, Upper Warden, Mr T.F.M. Head, Middle Warden, and Mr R.J. Crocker, Renter Warden, presided at a court ladies dinner held last night at Drapers' Hall. Assistant Simon J. Curtis, Mr R.S. Windsor and Judge Harvey Crush also spoke.



These badges of King George V's Family Order, King George VI's Family Order and The Queen's Family Order form part of a display of royal insignia which go on show at Windsor Castle today until July 6. The insignia — badges, stars, collars and medals — have been collected over the centuries by successive British Kings and Queens and have never been on show together to the public before

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; King Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74, Versailles, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, Kilkee, Co Clare, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1882; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, London, 1929.

DEATHS: Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury 1501-03, London, 1503; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, writer, Naples, 1713; Mikhail Glinka, composer, Berlin, 1857; Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1887; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of *Ben Hur*, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1905; Ethel Merman, singer, New York, 1984.

The first cargo of frozen meat left New Zealand, bound for Britain, on the *SS Dunedin*, 1882.

Singapore surrendered to the Japanese Army, 1942.

Allied bombing began on Monte Cassino monastery in Italy, 1944.

Britain changed to decimal currency, 1971.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Giambattista Bodoni, type designer, Saluzzo, Italy, 1740; George Macaulay Trevelyan, historian, Welcombe, Warwickshire, 1876; Robert Flaherty, film director, Michigan, 1884.

DEATHS: Richard Mead, physician, London, 1754; Lionel Lukin, lifeboat pioneer, Hythe, Kent, 1834; Leslie Hore-Belisha, 1st Baron Hore-Belisha, statesman and inventor of "Belisha beacons", Rheims, 1957.

The first British cheque was written by Nicholas Vanacker, 1659.

The Athenaeum founded, 1824.

Fidel Castro became Prime Minister of Cuba, 1959.

The American nuclear submarine *USS Triton* set off on an underwater round-the-world voyage, 1960.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F.A. Barnes and Mrs G. Harrison
The engagement is announced between Francis, son of the late Mr and Mrs A.E. Barnes, of Purbrook, Hampshire, and Greer, daughter of Mrs D. Woodyatt and the late Mr Jack Woodyatt, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Mr E.M.P. Boggis-Rolfe and Mrs G.M. Filipovich
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Boggis-Rolfe, of London, and Galina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Mikhail Gazyenko, of Moscow, Russia.

Mr B.A. Dyer and Miss C.O. Munro
The engagement is announced between Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Dyer, of Braintree, Essex, and Clare, daughter of Dr and Mrs Donald Munro, of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Mr C.A.M. Grassini and Miss A.M. Vamos
The engagement is announced between Corrado, elder son of Mr and Mrs Renato Grassini, of Milan, Italy, and Annabelle, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Vamos, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D.J.T. Mynors and Miss C. Mansell
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr J.M. Mynors and of Mrs Una Mynors, of Hunningham, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Mansell, of Todwick.

Mr S.J. Noakes and Mrs J.P. Burke
The engagement is announced between Simon Noakes, of Wimbledon, and Jennifer Prichard Burke, of Surbiton. The marriage will take place in London, on July 19, 1997.

Mr A.D. Ward and Miss V.J. Jenkin
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs W.D. Ward, of Shalford, Surrey, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.P. Jenkin, of Crantock, Cornwall.

Mr G.P. Williams and Dr K.M. Webb-Peploe
The engagement is announced between Gareth, elder son of Mr and Mrs Allan Williams, of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, and Katharine, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Webb-Peploe, of Claygate, Surrey.

Latest wills

Lady **Burbridge**, of Reading, Berkshire, left estate valued at £277,816 net.

Lady **Anderson**, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £300,409 net.
She left her residuary estate to Mazco Trust of Wendover, Buckinghamshire, for charitable purposes.

Robert Michael **McMorland**, of Itchen Abbas, Winchester, Hampshire, left £2,540,558 net.
He left £25,000 to Cancer Research Campaign; £10,000 to the RNLI; £7,500 to the National Trust and to Wessex Children's Hospice Trust, and £1,000 to Itchen Abbas Parish Church.

Arthur Geoffrey **Price**, of Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, left £1,196,135 net.

Douglas Pole **Welman**, of St Cross, Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £591,103 net.

June Rosalind **Wilkie**, of London N6, left £522,489 net.
She left £50,000 to Westminster School to endow a bursary for The Queen's Scholar's Special Fund plus the remainder of her estate to endow a bursary for girls entering Westminster School at sixth form level to study the sciences.

Pelham Harper **Maitland**, of London N3, left £716,938 net.
He left £250,000 to the Basset Hound Club to be used for basset hound rescue plus shares in residuary estate to other animal charities.

Maurice **Lee**, of Leeds, left £1,163,040 net.
He left £3,000 to the Jewish Home and Hospital and to the J.N.F. Charitable Trust North East Region Branch.

Dennis **Mercer**, retired estate agent, of Southport, Lancashire, left £1,498,145 net.

Gladys **Broughton**, of Nether Alderley, Cheshire, left £1,493,080 net.
She left £500 each to the PDSA, the RSPCA, and Wood Green Animal Shelter.

Helen Josephine Mary Bernadette **Bolton**, of Harcombe, Sidmouth, Devon, left estate valued at £1,275,844 net.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday in Lent

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Short Service (Batten), Ave verum (Byrd), The Provost; 6.30 ES, Faux Bourdons (Morley), Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn).

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Celtic Euch (White), Incline thine ear (Himmel), The Dean; 3.15 Ch E, Harris in A minor, Wash me throughly (Wesley).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Choral Communion, Darke in F, Miserere mei (Allegri); 3.30 Choral E, Noble in B minor, Evening Hymn (Gardiner).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Si iniquitates (Wesley), Rev Dr E Welch; 4 Choral E, Remember O Lord (Walmisley), Rev K Ricketts.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 M, Benedictus (Stanford in B flat), Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts (Purcell); 3.30 Wesley in F, O Lord look down for heaven (Battishill).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Call to remembrance (Farrant), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Choral E, Blair in B minor, thou wilt keep him (Sumsion), Canon J Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev F Pickard; 11 S Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), God which hast prepared (Mudd), Rev C Preece; 3.15 E, Fifth Service (Tomkins), Salve Intemerata (Tallis); 6.30 Compline, The Archdeacon of Canterbury.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), The Bishop of Penrith; 3 E, Statham in E minor, Lord for thy tender mercies's sake (Hilton).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, The Acting Provost; 9.30 Euch, Canon B Thompson; 11.15 S Euch, Chelmsford Mass (Vann), An heart that's broken (Oldroyd), Rev I Moody; 6 Choral E, First Service (Weelkes).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Harwood in A flat, Jesu Lamb of God, Redeemer (Mozart), Canon O Conway; 11.30 Choral M, Te Deum (Stanford in B flat), Lead me, Lord (Wesley), Canon J Newcome; 3.30 EP; 6.30 ES, Canon P Christensen.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Miserere (Chant), Canon Peirce; 11.15 S Euch, Missa ex ovum omnia (Hoult), Seigneur je vous en prie (Poulenc), The College Chaplain; 6 E & College Prayers, Fauxbourdon (Moore), Lamentations (Byrd).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev A Darby; 5 E, Wood in E flat No. 1, Expectans expectavi (Wood).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon S Pedley; 10 M, Benedictus (Stanford in B flat), Ave verum corpus (Mawby), The Precentor; 11.15 HC, Darke in E, Miserere mei (Byrd), Canon D Brown; 3.30 E, Wood in C minor, Forty days and forty nights (Oxley).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Thou knowest Lord (Purcell), Lloyd in E flat, Ave verum (Elgar), The Dean; 11.15 M, Te Deum (Ireland in F), Jubilate (Mozart), O hearken thou (Elgar), Canon D Ison; 3 E, Arnold in A, For he shall give his angels (Mendelssohn); 6.30 ES, Thou knowest Lord (Purcell), Canon K Parry.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr I Fisher; 9.45 S Euch, Misse Tertia (Hassler), Crucifixion (Billings), Rev J Clark; 11.15 M, Jubilate in B flat (Purcell), O saviour of the world (Goss), Canon Dr M Palmer; 6.30 Walmisley in D minor, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley), The Sub-Dean.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Let thy merciful ears (Mudd), Sumsion in F, O saviour of the world (Palestrina), The Treasurer; 11.30 M, Benedicite (Lloyd in B flat), Jubilate (Boyce in C); 3.30 E, Fauxbourdons (Andreas), Expectans expectavi (Wood).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Kyrie (Taverner), Sanctus Benedictus Agnus (Leighton), Herrick's Ode or Psalme to God (Newbold), Litany (Day), The Bishop of Rochester; 4 Choral E, First Service (Gibbons), Thou wilt keep him (Wesley), Canon T Girling.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Collegium Regale (Howells), The Lamentation (Bairstow), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Murrill in E, Greater love hath no man (Ireland).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Four part mass (Byrd), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), The Dean; 11.15 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hear my prayer (Purcell), The Subdean; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Murrill in E, A hymn of St Columba (Britten).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Litany & Euch, The Dean; 3 Choral E, Canon D Hutton; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy Euch, The Dean; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Whitlock in E flat, Come my way, my truth, my life (Harker), Ven R Roberts; 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Redman); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Mr V Steele.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, Canon I Bennett; 9.30 S Euch, Missa Aeterna christi munera (Palestrina), Ave verum corpus natum (Francisco de Penalosa), Canon I Bennett; 6 Choral E, Dorian service (Tallis).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Misse O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Call to remembrance (Farrant); 6.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Salvator mundi (Blow).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), O Saviour of the world (Howells), Rt Rev M Adie; 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hear my prayer (Batten), The Dean; 6.30 Sequence of Music & Readings for Lent.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Benedicite in F (Dyson); 10.30 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), If ye love me (Wilby), The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Aston in F, By the waters of Babylon (Coleridge-Taylor).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne), Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood), The Precentor; 11.15 Legal Service attended by Her Majesty's Judges and Magistrates, The Provost; 6.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Canon T Winterbotham.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Rev D Murfet; 9.30 Parish Euch, Darke in F, Beati quorum via (Stanford), Rev S Webb; 11.30 Choral Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Ave verum (Byrd), The Dean; 12.30 Euch, Canon E Eason; 5.30 E, Magnificat and nunc dimittis (Murrill in E), O vos omnes (Gesualdo), Canon K Punshon.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Salvator mundi (Blow), In ieiunio et fletu (Tallis); 10.30 S Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Canon R Lea; 3.15 E, Sumsion in G, Lord let me know mine end (Greene).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Slater; 10 Euch, Canon D Durston; 11.30 M, Very Rev D Watson; 3 E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Jesu dulcis memoria (Shephard), Canon J Sinclair; 6.30 E & Sermon, Second Service (Gibbons), Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), The Provost.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, The Provost; 11 M, Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), Purcell in D, Blessed is he (Boyce), The Chancellor; 3.15 E, O Saviour of the World (Howells), Howells in B minor, Thee will I love (Howells).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Cheetham), Wash me throughly (Wesley), The Librarian; 6 E, Short Service (Causton), Turn thee unto me (Boyce), The Treasurer.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 9.15 Parish Communion, Canon I Knox; 11 Solemn Euch, Canon D Baxter.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Rev G Farran; 11.30 M, Stanford in C, Crucifixus (Vivaldi); 3 E, Day in B flat, Wash me throughly (Wesley), Preb N Kent.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite (Purcell), Hear my prayer (Purcell), Rev R Holloway; 11.15 Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev B Fenton; 3 E, Stanford in A, O Lord Almighty God (Naylor), Canon D Hutt; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 ES, Canon A Harvey.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Te Deum in C (Britten), Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), The Dean; 11.30 Euch, Harwood in A flat, Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 3.30 E, Harwood in A flat, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley); 6.30 Evensong.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Family Euch, Canon R Windle; 11 S Euch, Mass in G (Poulenc), Salvator Mundi (Tallis), Canon P Winstone; 4 E, Blair in B minor, Wash my thoroughly (Wesley); 6.30 Congregational Service, Archdeacon of Worcester.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum, Rev Dr J Chancellor; 11.30 M, Benedicite in G (Jackson); 4 E, St Paul's Service (Howells), Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Sumsion in F, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Ven J Davies; 3.30 EP.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev R Davey; 10 Euch, Sanderstead Service, Canon M West; 11.30 HC, Canon S Pettit; 3.30 E.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M, Mass for four voices (Byrd), In God alone is my soul at rest (Fessard), Rev J Cronin; 5 Stations of the Cross.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Mass (Stravinsky), In ieiunio et fletu (Tallis), The Dean; 3.15 E, Wesley in E, O Lord look down from heaven (Battishill), Ven G Cassidy; 5 Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Rev K Scully; 6 E&B, Gray in F minor, The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 With All Souls Orchestra, Rev R Trist; 6.30 Rev J Cook.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa lauda Sion (Palestrina), Seniores populi (Vittoria), O Lord increase my faith (Gibbons).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, The true glory (Aston), Rev D Bean; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev N Gumbel; 11 MS, Rev S Downham; 5, 7.30 Informal, Mr J Jennings.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Mass for five voices (Byrd), O bone Jesu (Carver); 12.30, 4.30, 7; Mass 3.30 V & B, Pater peccavi (Lobo).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 HC & Confirmation, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev Dr P Graves.

ST AUGUSTINE, 117 Queens Gate, London, SW7: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Marc Antonio Ingegneri (Victoria).

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral Euch, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Bach Vespers, Herr Gott dich loben alle wir and Nun danket alle Gott (Bach), Die mit Tranen (Schein), Rev V Latossek.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), The Rector; 6.30 E, Service for Trebles (Weelkes), Locutus sum in lingua mea (Rogier), Rev R Parrott.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Mozart in C, O Lords in thy wrath (Gibbons), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Magnificat/Nunc Dimittis (Blair in B minor), Geistliches Lied (Brahms), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), Rev I Thomas.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Rev W Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), Peccantem me quotidie (Palestrina).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), En prière (Fauré), Rev D Lawson; 6 Choral E, Causton, De profundis (Gluck).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Peter Clare; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family Communion, Trio Sonata No. 1 (Bach), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, O salutaris hostia (Nicholson), Rev C Kevill-Davies; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Communion; 11 S Euch, Missa Orbis Factor, Plorans ploravit (Correa), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Lamentations part 1 (Tallis), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev N Thomson; 11.30 Visitors, Rev A Hurst; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, Rev C Herbert.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev D Weekes; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, Mr N Pain.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Communion Service (Causton), Archdeacon G Reid; 6 Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Out of the deep (Lupo), Mass (Plainsong), Rev S Webster; 6 Taize Service.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Salvator mundi (Tallis), Rev P Wells.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral Service, Benedicite (Purcell in C), Benedictus (Gibbons in F), Salvator mundi (Blow), Fr S Humphreys.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa pro defunctis (Anerio), There is an old belief (Parry), Vinea mea electa (Poulenc), Ven B Jacob.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P Abram; 11 M & Sermon, Benedictus (Tallis), Salvator Mundi II (Tallis), Rev P Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, O pray for the peace (Howells), Canon A Bowden.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662); 11 M & Litany, Purcell in B flat, Litany (Loosemore); 3.30 E, Second Service (Tomkins), Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Spem in Alium (Palestrina), Miserere mei Domine (Allegri), Litany (Tallis), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Lent 1 (Gibbons), Chaplain of Merchant Taylors School, Rev R Bolton.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 5 EP, Magnificat (Sumsion in G), Nunc dimittis (Sumsion in G), The sorrows of my heart are enlarged (Boyce).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Lent prose (Plainsong), Miserere (Allegri), Band of the Welsh Guards, Rev L Bryan; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich SE10: 11 S Euch (BCP), Shaw, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Rev C French.

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Scripture says, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the cleverness of the clever'. 1 Corinthians 1 : 19

BIRTHS

BARWICK - Carl and Sarah (née Marsland) are proud to announce the birth of Abigail Ellen at St George's Hospital, Tooting, on 20th January 1997.

BISHOP - On 12th February, a daughter for Wayne and Sarah. Welcome to Rutland, Maddie. A granddaughter for Bruce, Jean, Gerald and Wilma.

BORAK - On 8th February at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Alex and Nadia (née Endl), a daughter, Sasha Mary, a sister for William.

DOBBS - On 13th February at The Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Catherine (née Hardman) and Richard, a daughter, Annie Louise.

KUDO - On 10th February 1997 at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda and Izumi, a gorgeous daughter, sister to Shaw and Ken at last.

KYLLONEN - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, London, to Leonard and Dawn, a son, Philip Miles, a brother for Nathan.

LAMBERT - On January 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Jakyung (née Moon) and James, a son, Isaac, a brother for Laura.

MAJUMDAR - On 7th January, to Philippa Hart and Shantanu, a fine son, Mycroft Arjuna Lucian.

PATTISSON - On February 11th, to Francheska (née Every) and William, a daughter, Louisa Bridget, a sister for Frederick and Mary.

BIRTHS

PHILLIPS - Born Tuesday 11th February 1997, at Westmoreland Hospital, Kendal, Cumbria, to Sally (née Fawcett) and Jonathan, a wonderful daughter, Rowena Alice.

SWAN - On February 9th 1997, to Mary (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a daughter, Matilda Jane Kerr.

TABOR - On February 9th 1997, to Gemma and Patrick, a daughter, Rosanna Elizabeth Pamela "Rosie", a sister for Sophie, Harry and Jamie.

WATTS - To Cathy and Nick on 13th February, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BAKER-HODGSON-JONES - On 15th February 1947 at St Paul's Church, Redhill, George to Joyce. "How do I love thee? let me count the ways"

WHITE-JAMES - Eric formerly of Box, Wilts and Flora Theresa (née Smythe) formerly of Kirkdale, Liverpool, celebrate 50 years of marriage on Saturday 15th February 1997. Congratulations!

DEATHS

BEDFORD - John Patrick, darling husband of Gabrielle, loving, patient and kind father and father-in-law of Marianne and Franz, Tom and Etta, Leo, Bo and Oystein, Ben, Joe, Suki, Otto, Iggy and Bob. Died all too suddenly at home on February 12th. Mass at Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, near Reading, Berks., on Tuesday 18th February at 11.30 am. We would love to see you. Flowers/donations to the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust may be sent c/o Camp Hopson & Co. Ltd, 6-12 Northbrook Street, Newbury, Berks, RG14 1DN tel: (01635) 522210. Christmas may no longer be cancelled!

CATTERALL - Marguerite (Madge) on 12th February 1997 suddenly in Lincoln County Hospital, beloved wife of the late John, dearly loved mother of Robert, John, Gerald and Howard. She left us as she would have wished, swiftly with great dignity. Funeral Service on Friday 21st February at 2.30 pm at Lincoln Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations for Cancer Relief may be sent to the Co-op Funeral Service, 12 Portland Street, Lincoln, tel: (01522) 534971.

CLOUGH - Peacefully on 12th February 1997 at Lourdes Hospital, Liverpool. Mabel Violet, beloved wife of the late Revd. P.W.G. Clough of Nunney. Most loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Family flowers only please. Funeral at All Saints Church, Nunney, Frome, Somerset on 20th February 1997 at 12 noon.

COKER - On February 12th 1997 Lt. Colonel Douglas Coker OBE, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO), aged 78, beloved by his wife, family, Regiment and friends. Funeral private. Memorial Service 2.30 pm Wednesday 5th March at The Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, Chelsea SW3. No flowers but donations to The Across Trust, 70/72 Bridge Road, East Molesey KT8 9HF.

CONSTABLE - Charles, suddenly at home on Friday February 7th aged 92. Much loved husband of Gladys and a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather. A burial service will be held at Hardmead Church, Bedfordshire, on Saturday February 22nd. Enquiries to (01234) 212576.

CONYERS - Adrian David (known as David), died suddenly on February 11th 1997. Sorely missed by Joan, his sister Betsy, his sons James and Marcus, and Belinda. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium at 11.30 am on Thursday 20th February. Donations if desired to British Diabetic Association and Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Barnes & Sons (0181) 743-4312.

CORETH - Count Maurice. Suddenly and unexpectedly, at home in Yoxford. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service on Thursday February 20th at 2 pm at The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Peter Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Flowers to Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

GUED - R.M. (Ann), widow of Roger, peacefully at Edward VII Hospital on February 13th. Memorial Service to be announced later.

DEKYVERE - Marcel France, D.F.C. On 2nd February, 1997 at Sydney, Australia from injuries in a car accident. Aged 82. Widower of Nola, dearly loved companion of Lesley Sparry. Requiem mass was held at St Joseph's Church, Edgecliff, Sydney on 6th February, 1997.

HARDING - Frank of Bishopstone, near Swindon, comfortably at home on February 12th 1997. Funeral at Bishopstone on February 21st at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to St Mary's Church, Bishopstone, c/o Mr A Parrett, Seymour House, Bishopstone, Swindon, Wilts. SN6 8PY. Enquiries tel: (01793) 522797.

JOSEPHS - Elroy, Senior Lecturer and Choreographer, died 8th February 1997. Flowers or donations and all enquiries to James Crook Funeral Directors, (0181) 459-4363.

JUDGE - Gregory Patrick - Finance Director Manchester Metropolitan University on February 6th at age 46. A much respected and valued professional colleague and trusted friend of all. His energy and generosity in all his endeavours will be a great loss. His major contribution to Higher Education has been an inspiration to all who worked with him. The University staff, the Governors and many in the wider community extend their profound sympathy to his wife Janice, children and his family.

MUNRO - Hector on 12th February peacefully at Beacon Ridge. Beloved husband of Daphne. The most wonderful father of Kathryn and Vivienne. Adored grandfather of James, Louise, Tessa, Nikki and Mark. Devoted father-in-law of Tim. Formerly of Kenya and Spain. Funeral Service at Tanworth All Saints Church on Monday 24th February at 11 am. All enquiries to Spencer & Peyton, Basingstoke, tel: (01256) 23166.

PIERS - Constance (née Saunders), wife of the late Peter Piers of Zambia and Swaziland, has died at home amidst loving family, friends, flowers and candles. Donations to Christian Aid/Zambian Link, Portway Farm, Bascombe.

ROBSON - Torquil James Ross Robson, on February 12th, after a short illness, in Northampton General Hospital. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving. Enquiries to J & M Humphris, Funeral Directors, (01296) 265424.

NOBLIN - On February 14th Jacqueline Diane in the Middlesex Hospital peacefully after a wonderfully courageous battle with cancer. So very deeply loved wife of Clive, mother of Gaby and Timothy and adoring grandmother of Lukas. Funeral Sunday February 16th at 11 am Edgwarebury Cemetery. Prayers Sunday evening 7pm. Donations in her memory to Macmillan Nurses.

SIMPSON - On February 10th 1997 peacefully at Torbay Hospital, Col. Barry Graham Simpson MBE, Royal Artillery (retd.), adored husband of Billie. Funeral Service Thursday February 20th 12 noon at St Petrox Church, Dartmouth. No flowers please but donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation or Royal Artillery Heritage Campaign c/o R.C. Pillar & Sons Ltd. Funeral Directors, tel: (01803) 832121.

WADE - Vernon Arthur Tansley, Major LA. (retd). Peacefully in his 91st year at Weybridge Hospital after a brief illness. In memory of a dearly loved father of Hermione, father-in-law of Stephen and grandpa of Nicola and Jo-Jo; admired by all who knew him. Cremation at St John's, Woking, on Tuesday 18th February at 11am. Flowers to Lodge Bros. Funeral Directors, 36-38 High Street, Weybridge, KT13 8AB, tel: (01932) 854758. We deeply mourn the passing of one of life's true gentlemen. His ashes will reside chez Mim and Steve in Provençal eternity.

WANSBROUGH - On February 13th 1997 Sara Fjola (Sally) of Pilton, after a short illness. Dearly loved daughter of Margaret, devoted mother of Guy and Catharine and loving friend of Dave. Funeral on Thursday 20th February at 3pm in Pilton Church. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

WILLINGS - Passed away suddenly on Wednesday, February 12th 1997 at The Jersey General Hospital, Arthur James (Jim) aged 87 years. Much loved husband of Margaret and father of Bruce and Martin. He will be deeply missed by all his loving family and friends. A funeral will take place in Jersey on Tuesday 18th February. Family flowers only please, donations may be sent in memory of Arthur Willings to: The Jersey Family Nursing and Home Care, c/o The Treasurer, Le Bas Centre, St Saviour's Road, St Helier, Jersey JE2 4LA. Enquiries to Pitcher & Le Quesne Ltd., Funeral Directors, tel: 01534-33330.

WINTOUR - Colin A.E. of Longwell Green, Bristol, late of Kingswood Grammar School and Kingsfield School, peacefully at his home on February 10th aged 70. Much loved husband of Sheila, beloved dad of Alison and Catriona. Loving father-in-law of Rod and Peter. Best grandpa of Alistair and Cameron. Funeral Service at St Anne's Church, Oldland Common, on Wednesday February 19th at 11 am followed by cremation at Haycombe, Bath. Flowers or if preferred donations for the Bristol Oncology Unit to Bryan G. Bishop Funeral Service, Hallatrow Road, Paulton, near Bristol.

YOUNG - On February 14th, peacefully, Fiona, greatly loved wife of Sir Brian Young. Much loved by her children Joanna, Timothy and Deborah and by her seven grandchildren. Funeral Service at St James, Gerrards Cross, 3 pm, Friday February 21st.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LAND - A Memorial Service for Barbara Mary Land will be held on Tuesday 18th March 1997 at 12 noon in the Church of St James the Less, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex. No flowers at the church, instead please send any donations to the Barbara Mary Land Trust Fund for the benefit of her three children to Lloyds Bank, Branch 30-99-88, Account Number 0768664.

PUFFETT - A Memorial Service for Dr. Derrick Robert Puffett, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge 1984 - 1996 and formerly University Lecturer in Music, will be held in St John's College Chapel on Saturday 1st March 1997 at 12 noon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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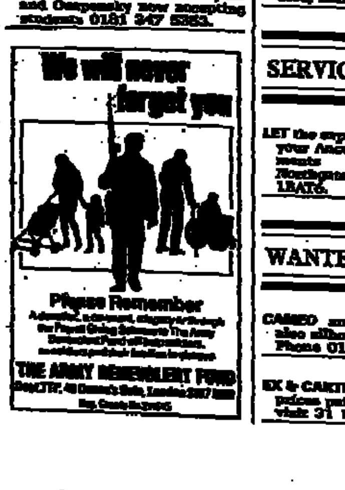
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEAREST BEATRIX - May the sun always shine from your beautiful [illegible]

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BIRTHDAYS

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NORA BELOFF

Nora Beloff, author and journalist, died on February 12 aged 78. She was born on January 24, 1919.

FOR a period of thirty years on *The Observer*, first as a foreign correpondent and later as its political correspondent, Nora Beloff was one of the most "visible" women journalists writing for the broadsheet press in her day. Always lively and opinionated — not to say prejudiced — whether reporting from foreign capitals or casting a scathing eye over the domestic political scene, she was not noted for judicious commentary or dispassionate judgment, once her ire had been aroused.

But, whether she was assailing the Labour Government's record over the trade union closed shop or berating postwar British Governments of either complexion over their attitude to the former Yugoslavia, she brought a certain heady immediacy to the business of reporting. Knowledgeable she might be, but she was never in any danger of becoming a mandarin — nor did she wish to be.

Nora Beloff was not the first woman to work as a journalist in the parliamentary lobby. That distinction belongs to Baroness White, who as Eirene Jones went to work there for the *Manchester Evening News* in 1946. But almost 20 years later Beloff did blaze her own trail by becoming the first woman political correspondent of a national newspaper. She held the post on *The Observer* from 1964 until her retirement in 1976.

Although she was inclined to regard that period as the apex of her career, her most valuable work had, in fact, been done earlier. She was a resourceful and courageous Paris correspondent for the same paper during the difficult years of the Algerian War in the 1950s and she also served with distinction in Washington, Moscow and Brussels — the last posting producing her first and best book, *The General Says No* (1963), a vivid account of the original, abortive British negotiation to join the EEC of 1961-63.

From a cosmopolitan background herself — she was the daughter of Russian émigrés and the younger sister of Lord Beloff, later Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford — she possessed many of the attributes of the born foreign correspondent. Educated at King Alfred School and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she read history, she did not immediately think of journalism as a career.

After graduating from Oxford in 1940, she started off as a member of the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office and this, no doubt, gave her a head start over many of her subsequent rivals. From the Foreign Office, she joined first Reuters, where she was a reporter for the year 1945-46, and then served as Paris correspondent of *The Economist* before arriving at *The Observer* in the same year, 1948, that David Astor took up the editorship. For the next decade and a half she served successively in the major European capitals and in America. In addition to the difficulties of reporting the Algerian War from the Paris posting, she almost lost her life in America, when her car was in collision with a taxi in Washington. For a while she was in a critical condition in hospital, before emerging to re-enter the journalistic fray.

It was Astor who appointed her political correspondent of *The Observer* 16 years after she had been taken on to the paper. It was in some ways an unenviable inheritance. The paper had never really found a replacement for Hugh Massingham, its star political columnist of the 1940s and 1950s — and, whatever Beloff's talents, she was not a writer in the same class as he was. It is also not necessarily an advantage for a political correspondent to possess strong and committed personal opinions; Beloff certainly held those and had no intention of hiding them.

From the outset she allied herself firmly with the "revisionist" wing of the Labour Party: even Harold Wilson, as Prime Minister, was said to examine her copy in order to find out what such Cabinet colleagues as Roy Jenkins and Anthony Crosland were up to.

But a price inevitably had to be paid for such overt partisanship. Relations between No 10 and *The Observer* became increasingly strained during the course of the 1964-70 Labour Government — with the Prime Minister on one occasion writing a ten-page letter of protest to the paper's Editor detailing his complaints against its political coverage. No doubt, there were faults on both sides — but even Beloff's principal sources grew embarrassed by the intensity of her evangelical fervour, which was combined on occasion with a quite startling indiscretion.

Her latter years on *The Observer* were also clouded by an unwise High Court action brought against *Private Eye* for breach of copyright, which she lost. Still, Beloff could claim to have got some things right. She was among the first to spot the danger of "entryism" into the Labour Party — and the eventual, if belated, showdown over Militant fully vindicated her earlier warnings.

Beloff's tenure did not, however, survive the paper's change of ownership and editorship in 1976 and her last years were spent specialising in what she saw as the wartime and postwar betrayal of Yugoslavia by the West. She wrote occasionally on this theme in *The Daily Telegraph* and it also provided the subject for her last book, *Tito's Flawed Legacy*, which was published in Italy and the United States as well as in Britain in 1985. Fiercely pro-Serbian to the end, she maintained in it that Britain had been misled into supporting Tito's Partisans against Mihajlovic's Cetniks, in spite of a paradoxical recognition of Tito's achievements as a bulwark against potential Soviet aggression in the Balkan region.

Other books she wrote included *Freedom under Foot* (1976), whose *double entendre* title expressed its intentions, a fierce attack on Michael Foot's support for the recognition of trade union rights in newspapers, including a closed shop for journalists, during his time as Employment Secretary. *No Travel like Russian Travel* (1979) was an examination of the difference between appearance and reality in experiencing the daily life of the Soviet Union.

After her retirement from *The Observer* Nora Beloff married, in 1977, Clifford Makins, a former sports editor of the paper. He predeceased her in 1990. She had no children.

MAJOR GEOFFREY BIDDLE

Major Geoffrey Biddle, MBE, GM, bomb disposal expert, died on February 3 aged 79. He was born on May 7, 1917.

GEOFF BIDDLE probably saved the life of Sir Edward Heath in 1975 when he defused an IRA bomb which had been wedged in a bag beneath a car outside the former Prime Minister's London home. The bomb was a new terrorist device, designed to go off when released from the pressure of the car.

Called to the scene in the early hours of a bitterly cold night, Biddle had to lie in the gutter and, working by the light of his torch, gently pull round the bag until it faced him — before he could start to dismantle the device. The car, moreover, was a Mini, which allowed him little space in which to work.

Judged even by the exacting standards of his craft, it involved a breathtaking blend of skill and courage — to which a grateful Edward Heath has since paid tribute. Biddle's only personal comment of the incident was to complain about the cold. "The wind," he said, "was blowing up my trousers."

Biddle it was who, two years earlier, had defused the first car bomb in London, parked outside New Scotland Yard. Together with his old friend and colleague Major Don Henderson, he had helped to set up the Metropolitan Police Explosives Office at Cannon Row on leaving the Army in 1964. Its early work involved criminal investigation rather than terrorism, and Biddle was soon a familiar police witness, providing scientific evidence at the Old Bailey.

It was IRA activity in the 1970s, however, which raised his profile, drawing praise from High Court judges and the tabloids as he and his small, elite team moved calmly from one crisis to another. He and a colleague answered five calls in one 48-hour period alone; early in 1974, although some of the bombs went off before they got there. The targets included Madame Tussaud's, the Earls Court Boat Show and a senior army officer's home in Kensington.

Softly, softly: Biddle tackles an explosive device in Piccadilly in the 1970s

Biddle dismantled one device, in a loudly ticking cardboard box in Ealing, only just in time. The clock had only 30 seconds to go before triggering the lethal mix inside — the kind of scenario that James Bond might have relished. As it was, the closest he came to serious injury was in 1975 when a parcel bomb sent by a jilted lover to his ex-mistress blew up in Biddle's face as he was dealing with it, badly scorching his wrists and eyebrows.

Despite his hair-raising career, however, Geoffrey William Biddle had started out as a gents' outfitter. Born at Bromley, Kent, the son of a foreman builder, he left school to train at his local branch of Burton's. He was not more than 20 when they made him manager, the youngest Burton's manager in the country.

But then the war broke out. Rejected for the front line because he wore glasses, Biddle was drafted into the Royal Army Pay Corps. Within months he had successfully sought a transfer to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) where he qualified as an ammunition examiner.

A Warrant Officer Class One by the time the war ended, Geoffrey Biddle had found his *métier*. Rather than return to Burton's counters he accepted a commission as an ammunition technical officer (ATO) and embarked on a long-term military career. He travelled widely during the next 19 years, including postings in the Middle East, East Africa and Cyprus — where he was defusing bombs during the Eoka troubles.

He was never technically a policeman, but was known as a Metropolitan Police Staff Officer. Nevertheless, he took it as a great compliment when a senior police officer remarked thet "the Met" looked on him as one of their own.

Geoffrey Biddle, who retired for the second time in 1981, was loaded with honours, including being named as Man of the Year in 1976 and being made a Freeman of the City of London. But when he went to the Palace to receive his MBE he had to enter through a side gate to avoid photographers because of the sensitive nature of his work.

Yet he never assumed the mantle of a hero. A slim, grey-haired, mild-mannered man, he rarely lost his temper or raised his voice. Nor did he lose the personal standards of a soldier. He would never have dreamt of going out, even after he retired, without a collar and tie, polished shoes and neatly pressed trousers.

He was only 22 when he married his wife, Lilian, "Geordie" who had moved south to work in a Bromley hotel. They met through their shared love of ballroom dancing and their idea of a treat when they were young was to foxtrot to Joe Loss and his band at the Hammersmith Palais.

In his retirement they played bowls together at their local club, of which he was to become secretary and then president. He also retained his links with the Army and the police, and attended a 1984 function held to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Explosives Office — now part of SO13, the Anti-Terrorist Branch.

His wife died in 1987 and Geoff Biddle, who was increasingly crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, moved into a nursing home over a year ago. He is survived by a daughter and a son.

JOHN BAKER

John Baker, composer of music for radio and television programmes, died of cancer on February 7 aged 59. He was born at Leigh-on-Sea on October 12, 1937.

IN THE heyday of the Radiophonic Workshop, the BBC's electronic music studios in Maida Vale, three composers were predominant: David Cain, Delia Derbyshire and John Baker. Before synthesizers and multitrack tape recorders became common, Baker used everyday sounds as his "instruments" — the wanging of a ruler, the noise made by blowing across the top of a bottle or the plop of a cork being pulled. He changed their pitch on tape, edited the sounds together (sometimes measuring notes inexactly to introduce a syncopated feeling) and used, perhaps, three tape recorders running simultaneously side by side to put together the final composition.

In the official history of the Workshop, there are references to so-called "Baker techniques" in "realising" electronic music. They were used for many years after he had left.

John Baker was a descendant of a successful family of firework manufacturers in the East End of London. After graduating at the Royal Academy of Music he joined the BBC in 1960. He worked first as a studio manager, a job which, in those times, could entail playing discs on the Light Programme's *Housewives' Choice* one day and editing foreign correspondents' dispatches on 78 rpm records for *Radio Newsreel* the next.

Three years later, Baker moved to the Radiophonic Workshop, which was then in the vanguard of electronic music work. While there, he composed the signature tunes of many BBC radio and television shows, including that of the Radio Four current affairs programme *PM*, the jingle for the listeners' letters slot on *Woman's Hour* and the theme of *BBC English by Radio* on the World Service.

Producers commissioning his work used to see him at the Maida Vale studios to give him an idea of what they wanted. He merely listed each of the adjectives they used to describe their programmes — words he then had by him when he came to work on their music. As with *BBC English by Radio*, he often embodied the rhythm of the programme's title into the pieces he composed.

Baker provided incidental music and special effects for many plays, one of them a Third Programme production in 1969 of Ibsen's *When We Dead Awaken*, starring Ralph Richardson. One of the more unusual requests made to him came from a man from the Royal Shakespeare Company, who wanted a sonata composed from the sound of his kneecap being tapped. "You record your knee-cap and I'll do my best" Baker told the man. He never heard from him again.

The stress of being continuously inventive and of balancing, say, several commissions in his head at one time, coupled with the painstaking process of assembling the music, all took its toll of Baker's health. In addition, he worked hard away from the BBC, providing effects for many TV commercials and writing a good deal of mood music, some of which was used in the Beatles film, *Help!*

John Baker was a resourceful and innovative jazz pianist in the André Previn/Dudley Moore mould, although he largely confined his playing to his native Southend-on-Sea. He composed and orchestrated a jazz Mass for a local church.

Ill-health forced him to part company from the BBC in 1974 and he never really recovered from the shock of his departure. A shy, sensitive and courteous man, he was blessed with a heightened sense of the ridiculous, which helped him to cope with illness. In his latter years, he liked nothing better than to spend his days (and nights) listening to his favourite programmes on Radio Three.

He was unmarried.

Baker with tape machine and mixing desk in the BBC Radiophonic Workshop

ON THIS DAY

February 15, 1963

George Brown (1914-85) had been deputy leader to Hugh Gaitskell since 1960 and served as such under Harold Wilson until 1970 when he was created a life peer.

MR WILSON IS LABOUR'S NEW LEADER

FROM OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Harold Wilson, who is 46, last night became Leader of the Labour Party in succession to the late Hugh Gaitskell. In this week's second ballot he had a majority of 41 votes over Mr. George Brown, the acting leader, and only two of the 249 Labour M.Ps. who were eligible abstained from voting . . .

After the meeting of the parliamentary party had dispersed there continued to be no positive assurance that Mr. Brown intended to keep his post as deputy leader of the party under Mr. Wilson. When the question was specifically put to Mr. Wilson at his press conference in Transport House last night he elusively said that the parliamentary party meeting had been private and he could not talk about it.

Late last night, after a long discussion between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown at Transport House, some Labour leaders confidently forecast that Mr. Brown will in the end agree to serve as deputy leader. But no official statement was forthcoming.

It later became known that the declaration of the result was followed by a few moments of drama. As Mr. Wilson rose to acknowledge his election Mr. Brown is said to have waved him down and asked that he should be allowed to explain his position. In effect he said he wanted time to consider his position as deputy leader. He asked the meeting to sympathize with his motives and give him an opportunity to consult with the new leader on policy and other matters before he declared his intentions in the new situation.

According to Labour M.Ps Mr. Brown made a very dignified figure as he faced the meeting calmly and sturdily. He is said to have shown no signs of emotion, although the rank and file know that he is an engagingly emotional man . . .

There then seems to have been a warm tribute from Mr. Wilson to Mr. Brown's dynamic qualities as a party leader (he is chairman of the organization sub-committee, which makes him a force in the constituency parties) and as a parliamentary speaker . . .

Mr. Wilson added that the election had been completed without any rankling or bitterness, and with the leadership of the party united.

Some commentators would try to read into the result of the ballot that approval had been given to a particular mandate or section or group or policy. But it was clear that the votes cast were those of the whole party. He regarded himself as elected not by 144 votes but by the party as a whole. He accepted his duty to serve the whole party in Parliament and in the country.

He added that three things had been decided. First there was a mandate to maintain the unity of the party that Hugh Gaitskell had handed on three weeks ago. The second mandate was to continue those policies worked out under Mr. Gaitskell's leadership. The third ("there can be no doubt about this") was to lead Labour to victory in the coming election. With the help of the whole party in Parliament and the country that, said Mr. Wilson, was what he proposed to do . . .

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EZRA, ISAAC NAHOM CECIL otherwise known as CECIL of Room 1347, Hong Kong Hotel, No.3 Canton Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong died on 7 December 1995 particulars to The Executor, Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, Probate Operations, 2nd Floor, Deacon House, 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 3RG before 17 April 1997

HARPER, KENNETH of 36 Forest View, Chingford, London died on 11 November 1996 particulars to TRINGHAMS Solicitors of 26 DORSET STREET, LONDON W1M 3FU before 17 April 1997

HORSFIELD, Florence Irene, 105 Nelson House, Dolphin Square, London SW1, died 14th August 1996; particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, Solicitors, (ref: MLS.SM.H2612), 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 25th APRIL 1997.

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JONES PRISCILLA MARY ELIZABETH late 24 Harewood Avenue, Northolt, Middx who died on 24.9.1996. Particulars to KEITH HALL, JUVILER & CO, 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx UB6 9AG. Before 16th April 1997.

MUNTHE, MALCOLM GRANE MARTIN LUDOVIC of Hildesholm, Sweden and Palazzo Lungharno, Rome, Italy and Southside House, Wimbledon, London SW19 died on 25 November 1995 particulars to DIBB LUPTON ALSOP Solicitors of 125 LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2Y 5AE (Ref: RDEL) before 1 May 1997

SANDER, STEPHEN MICHAEL of 39 Gordon Avenue, Stanmore died on 2 October 1996 particulars to TRINGHAMS Solicitors of 26 DORSET STREET, LONDON W1M 3FU before 17 April 1997

THOMAS, ENA ELIZABETH of 29 Marcon Place, London E8 died on 19 July 1996 particulars to DOWSE & CO Solicitors of 229/235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON NW1 7BU before 16 April 1997

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THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

NEWS

Birth control for 11-year-olds

■ *Children as young as 11 should be offered free condoms and* advice on sex to reduce Britain's high rate of teenage pregnancies, a key government advisory body says.

In the most authoritative review of research on sex among teenagers, the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination says school-based sex education and by clinics providing contraceptives are the best way to stop teenage pregnancies ..... **Page 1**

The richest man in the world

■ *Bill Gates, 41, the American computer entrepreneur, last year* used a stampeding bull market to double his fortune to *$29 billion (£18 billion), setting him well on the road to becoming* the world's greatest human wealth accumulator ..... **Pages 1, 23**

Nazi victim

A British woman living near Cologne died after being attacked by neo-fascists angered by a "Nazis Out" *sticker on her rucksack*, a German court heard .... **Page 3**

Lost chapel found

Archaeologists believe that they may have found the lost royal chapel of St Michael in Stirling Castle .... **Page 6**

Tests for teachers

Student teachers will have to demonstrate their own grasp of grammar and spelling under plans by *Gillian Shephard* .... **Page 8**

Wreck's legacy

Wildlife on the Pembrokeshire coast is still feeling the impact a year after the *Sea Empress* ran aground .... **Page 10**

All in the mind

The power of the imagination can distort people's perception of the past, an American psychologist has shown .... **Page 11**

Airline strike

American Airlines is on the verge of the most serious airline strike in aviation history which might leave *hundreds of thousands of passengers* stranded .... **Page 14**

Yeltsin ailing

Boris Yeltsin is unable to walk unaided for more than a few yards and is showing signs of Parkinson's disease .... **Page 15**

Clinton peace call

President Clinton has called on Israel and Syria to resume talks on the Golan Heights, security and Lebanon .... **Page 16**

Beijing on edge

China's Foreign Minister called for calm as the stand-off over a defecting senior North Korean continued in Beijing .... **Page 17**

Mayor under scrutiny

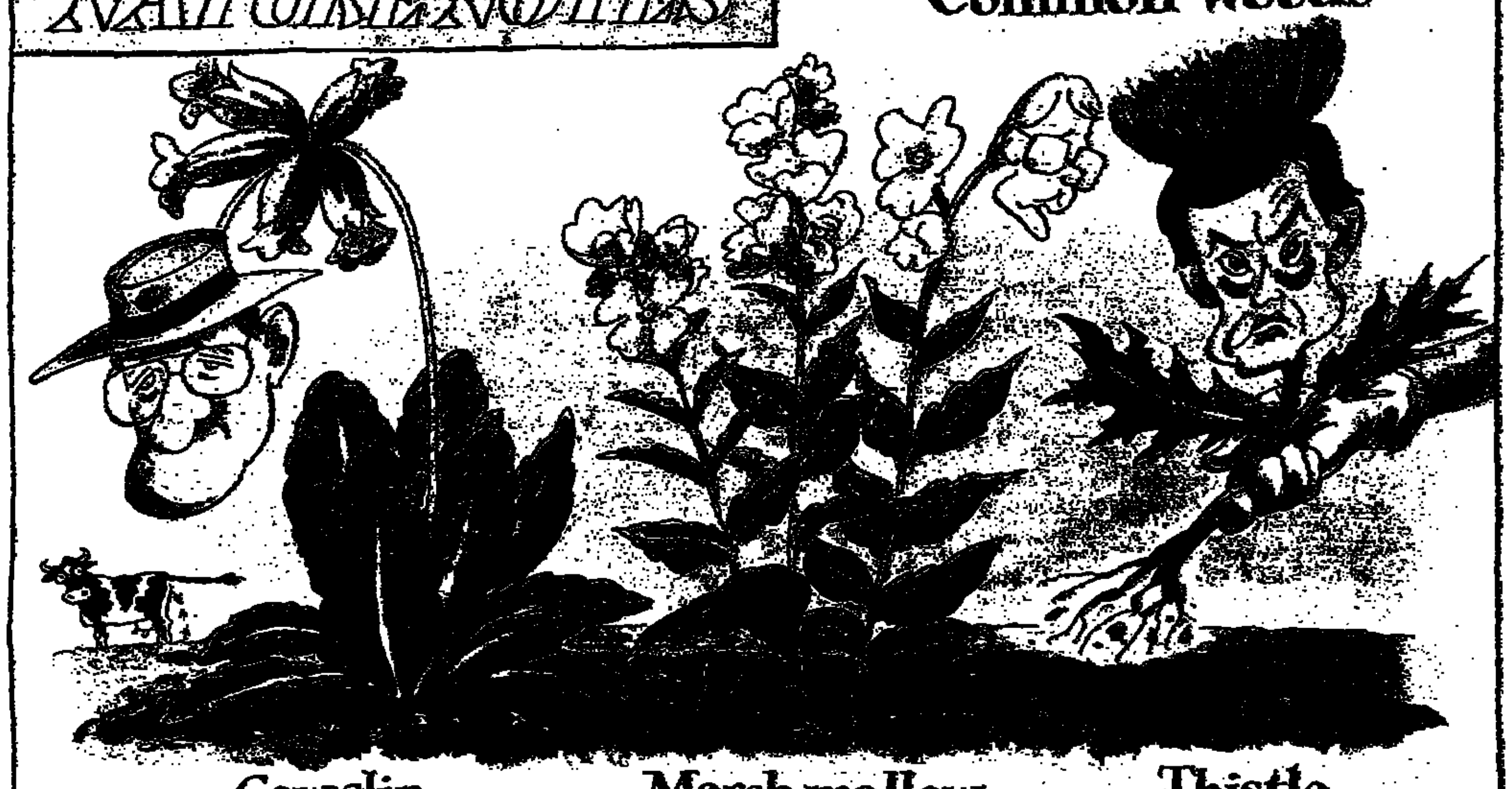
Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of Paris, faces imminent investigation on suspicion of corruption, according to a magazine .... **Page 18**

WI backs village hall strippers

■ *Strippers and blue comedians will be welcome in the village* hall at Shotley in Suffolk, thanks to support from the Women's Institue. The local vicar, the Rev Robin Spittle, objected on moral grounds but WI members said although they might not attend the shows, they were not staid marmalade-makers .... **Page 1**

NATURE NOTES

Common weeds



Cowslip
(Hoggus censurus)

Marsh mallow
(Blandus majorus)

Thistle
(Dorrella antidevolutionis)

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: As I turned a corner in Cheshire I faced an astonishing sight — an English foxhunt at full trot and in full regalia .... **Page 22**

Roger Scruton: A priest can face no unhappier situation than ministering to a dying *congregation* .... **Page 22**

Michael Beloff: Alleged murder is as serious a libel as can be envisaged .... **Page 22**

LETTERS

EU arms code; devolution: land gifts; science and arts; Calcutta book fire; Mr and Mrs Beeton .... **Page 23**

[illegible]

Two wrongs: Newspapers seeking to counter injustice have their place in the press gallery, not as advocates for the prosecution .... **Page 23**

Without a crew: The next generation of movie-makers are already crashing through the door .... **Page 23**

Micro, micro, on the wall: In earlier centuries there was probably not enough wealth for anyone to be compared with Bill Gates .... **Page 23**

[illegible]

Nora Beloff, former *Observer* journalist .... **Page 25**

[illegible]

Mortgages: The Halifax and *other leading mortgage lenders* have started a new round of the mortgage price war, in some cases cutting the price of fixed rate loans by more than 1 per cent .... **Page 27**

Banking: More than 80,000 *staff of Lloyds TSB are in line* for bonus and salary increases worth an average of £1,000 each .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 13.9 points to close at 4341.0. Sterling fell from 97.8 to 97.7 after a fall from $1.6222 to $1.6213 and from DM2.7367 to DM2.7348 .... **Page 30**

[illegible]

Rugby union: If the tight forwards absorb *Ireland's initial* onslaught, England are as well equipped as anyone to win in Dublin .... **Page 52**

Cricket: England took five New Zealand wickets for 229 after putting them into bat on the opening day of the final Test .... **Page 52**

Football: West Ham signed John Hartson, the Wales and Arsenal striker, for a club *record £5 million* .... **Page 52**

[illegible]

Classic car theft; BMW 525 touring; tomorrow's traffic

[illegible]

Kiri in the bush: Richard *Morrison says the year's* most bizarre musical event may be Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's outdoor concert in the outback .... **Page 21**

Cliff in town: Panned by the critics but adored by the fans, Cliff Richard's musical *Heathcliff* has reached London .... **Page 21**

Pushing hard: The astonishing Tetsuya Kumakara stars in the Royal Ballet's staging of *Push Comes to Shove* .... **Page 20**

Olivier Awards: Amateurs sit in judgment .... **Page 20**

[illegible]

MAGAZINE

Mia and me: Woody Allen hits back .... **Page 8**

Royal restoration: Windsor Castle .... **Page 27**

Food & drink **Pages 47-49**

Weekend

The small time: Minor league glory .... **Pages 1, 2**

Property: Converting a bank into a home.. **Page 8**

Home life: Older siblings can be *friends* .... **Page 11**

10 15

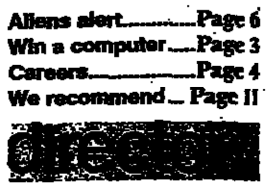
Aliens alert .... **Page 6**

Win a computer .... **Page 3**

Careers .... **Page 4**

We recommend ... **Page 11**

directory



People .... **Page 3**

TV & radio .... **Pages 23-51**

Food .... **Pages 4-6**

Books .... **Pages 7-12**

What's on .... **Pages 13-21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,404

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

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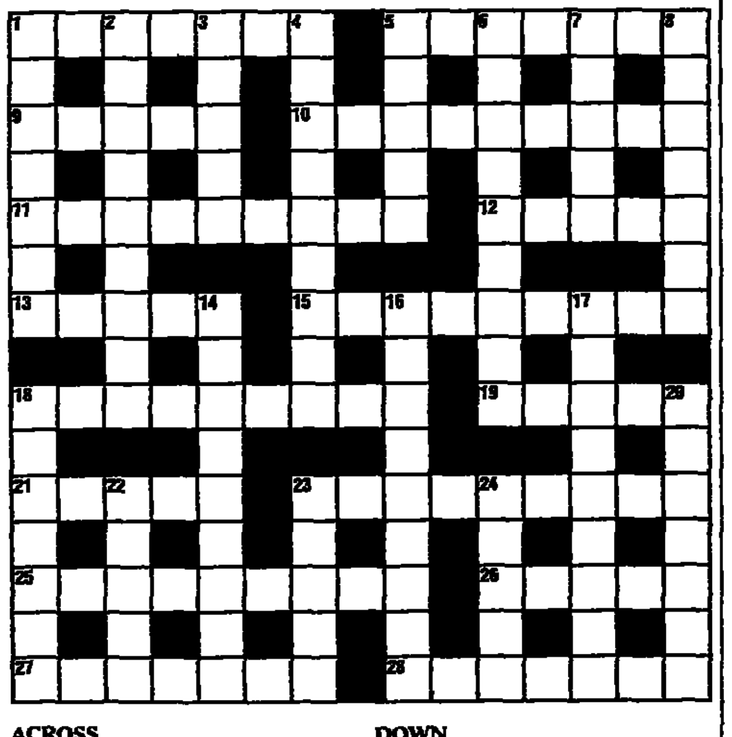

ACROSS

1 Show extremes of violence in rage and fury (7).
5 Too close to front of ship (7).
9 A devil or two (5).
10 Chapter introducing imaginary village university (9).
11 Religiously perform lines, some *in translation* (9).
12 This could make suit fit to a T (5).
13 Comfortable home with a girl (5).
15 Cockney isn't pursued outside, being innocent (9).
18 Poirot takes on an arduous sort of task (9).
19 As body would, after one is this? (5).
21 Animal making noise that's not so loud (5).
23 Coach *horse involved in accident* almost (9).
25 Sweet on girl, but one day he's deceived (5,4).
26 Appeal to small boy? It often doesn't (5).
27 Abandon speaking course (7).
28 Composer who made his mark? (7).

DOWN

1 One who essayed to have another child? (7).
2 Ordered queries about Capone's gat (9).
3 Shaft of light from single amethyst (5).
4 Rightness of conviction as first three get sent up (9).
5 A 27 to attack with energy (5).
6 Big, sturdy harness (9).
7 Avoid Kansas City (5).
8 Exploited partnership in full (7).
14 Heartless spat in beer, an artistically watery concoction (9).
16 Steel can't break, they feel (9).
17 Heavy sheet physicist put into pool (9).
18 In road across foreshore, lay out rope (7).
20 Again cut up in this final contest (7).
22 Plant is performing satisfactorily (5).
23 Look into diminution in influence (5)
24 Lost in transit? (2,3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,398

C	A	N	V	A	S		B	A	S	S	O	O	N	S
	V		I		C			T		W		F		O
J	I	L	L		R	A	G	A	M	U	F	F	I	N
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	O		I		C			S		O		L		A
B	R	A	N	C	H	O	U	T		A	M	O	N	G
L		T		U		N		I		S		U		U
I	C	T	U	S		S	A	C	C	H	A	R	I	N
N		I		T		L			A		B		N	
D	O	C	T	O	R	A	L		P	A	R	I	S	H
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P	H	A	S	I	N	G	O	U	T		H	A	I	R
O		L		A		H			A		A		L	
T	O	T	A	L	I	T	Y		L	I	M	P	L	Y

Solution to Puzzle No 20,403

S	P	O	O	N		F	I	E	L	D	F	A	R	E
E		W		E		R		L		W		N		R
L	E	I	S	U	R	E	L	Y		E	N	N	U	I
F		N		R		E		S		L		U		C
D	O	G	G	O		S	C	I	N	T	I	L	L	A
O				P		I		A				L		
U	P	P	S	A	L	A		N	I	P	P	I	N	G
B		T		T						R		N		R
T	E	A	C	H	I	N		S	P	A	N	G	L	E
		R				E		T		C				A
H	A	M	M	E	R	T	O	E		T	R	A	C	T
Y		I		X		T		P		I		D		N
D	I	G	I	T		L	O	S	T	C	A	U	S	E
R		A		O		E		O		A		L		S
A	N	N	E	L	I	D	A	N		L	O	T	U	S

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *A Alman, Blackpool, Lancashire; N Edward, Carnoustie, Angus; P Maclean, Potten End, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire; G Hughes, Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire; A Meekings, Enfield, Middlesex.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: *7.15 am*	Sun sets: *5.16 pm*
Moon sets *2.02 am*	Moon rises *11.25 am*

Full moon February 22

London 5.16 pm to 7.13 am
Bristol 5.26 pm to 7.22 am
Edinburgh 5.17 pm to 7.36 am
Manchester 5.19 pm to 7.26 am
Penzance 5.40 pm to 7.31 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.13 am	Sun sets: 5.18 pm
Moon sets *3.00 am*	Moon rises *12.08 pm*

Full moon February 22

London 5.18 pm to 7.11 am
Bristol 5.27 pm to 7.20 am
Edinburgh 5.19 pm to 7.33 am
Manchester 5.21 pm to 7.23 am
Penzance 5.42 pm to 7.29 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.18	6.5	19.56	6.3
Aberdeen	07.28	3.6	20.00	3.6
Avonmouth	00.15	10.9	12.51	10.6
Belfast	*05.06*	*3.0*	*17.42*	*3.1*
Cardiff	00.01	10.2	12.37	9.9
Devonport	11.25	4.5	-	-
Dover	04.36	5.9	17.10	5.5
Dublin (N Wall)	*05.46*	*3.6*	*18.17*	*3.6*
Falmouth	10.56	4.3	23.31	4.2
Greenock	05.48	3.2	18.22	3.0
Harwich	05.09	3.6	17.46	3.4
Holyhead	*04.10*	*4.6*	*16.45*	*4.8*
Hull (Albert D)	-	-	12.12	7.4
Ilfracombe	11.50	7.4	-	-
King's Lynn	-	-	12.19	5.1
Leith	*08.39*	*4.7*	*21.13*	*4.7*
Liverpool	04.47	7.8	17.22	7.7
Lowestoft	03.01	2.3	15.58	2.1
Margate	05.24	4.3	18.07	4.0
Milford Haven	-	-	*12.08*	*5.5*
Newquay	11.08	5.6	23.44	5.4
Oban	-	-	12.23	2.9
Penzance	10.29	4.5	23.09	4.4
Portland	-	-	*12.12*	*1.4*
Portsmouth	06.17	4.1	17.51	3.9
Shoreham	04.34	5.3	17.15	5.0
Southampton	04.23	3.9	16.54	3.7
Swansea	-	-	*12.15*	*7.6*
Tees	09.48	4.4	22.16	4.4
Walton-on-N	05.06	3.8	17.43	3.5

All times GMT. Hights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Guernsey, 0.63in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, Fife, 8.7hr.

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[illegible]

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a largely dry day with sunny spells. Rain may reach western fringes by midnight. Temperatures near normal after early frost, but winds will increase in the west later.

Wintry showers over northern Scotland will die out to leave most parts, and Northern Ireland, with sunny spells. The Province will see rain in the evening. Temperatures may be on the cold side after overnight frost.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England:** dry and bright with sunny spells, more cloudy later. Wind west moderate backing south west and increasing fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** sunny start, then cloudy, some rain later by midnight. Wind west light backing south increasing fresh or strong. Max 8C (46F).

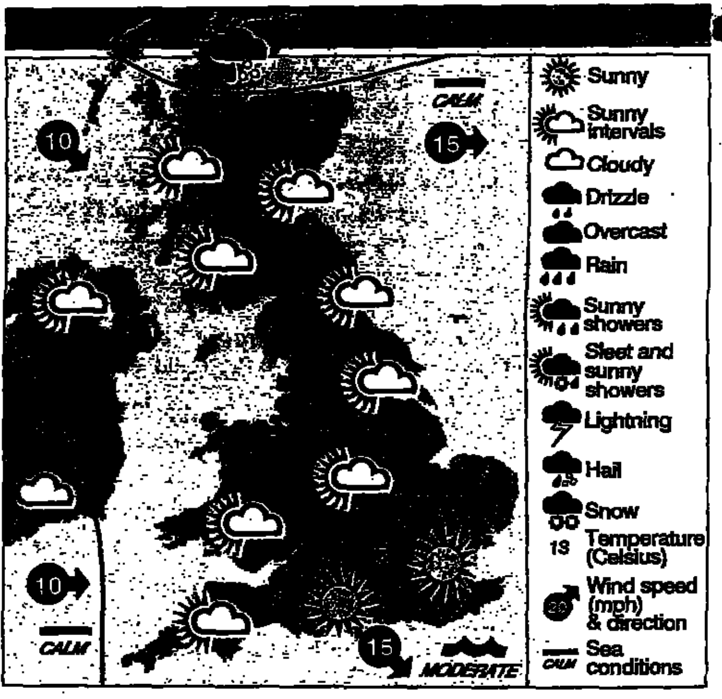
☐ **NW England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** dry and bright with sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind west moderate becoming south increasing fresh later. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney:** wintry showers dying out, cloudy later. Wind west backing south moderate or fresh, light for a time. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Shetland:** wintry showers, sunny or clear spells later. Wind mostly light and variable. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny intervals, then cloudy, rain in evening. Wind west light becoming south increasing strong or gale. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** very windy in most parts, with showers or longer periods of rain.



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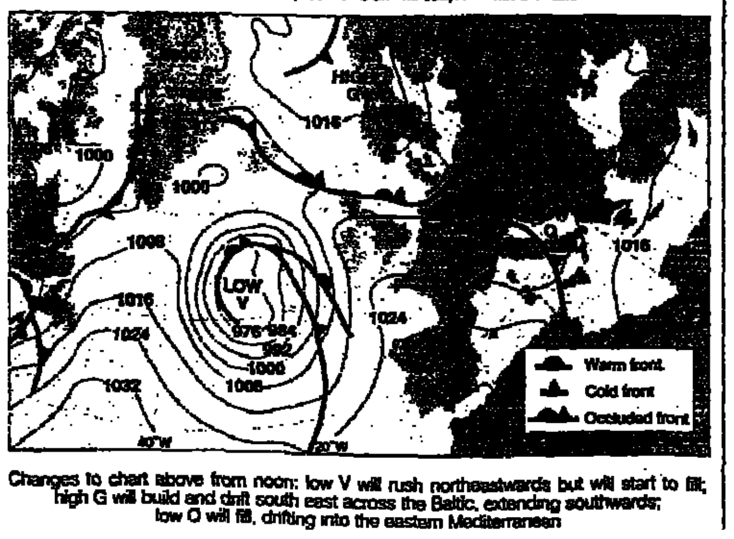
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	*6.2*	*0.06*	*7*	*45*	*s*	*Littlehmptn*	-	*0.08*	*7*	*45*	*r*
Anglesey	4.2	-	9	48	s	London	0.4	-	8	46	b
Aspatria	6.4	0.01	7	45	sh	Lowestoft	6.0	-	7	45	s
Aviemore	5.3	0.01	5	41	s	Manchester	3.9	-	7	45	s
Belfast	*5.4*	*0.01*	*7*	*45*	*sh*	*Margate*	*1.3*	*0.01*	*6*	*43*	*c*
Birmingham	3.7	-	6	43	b	Minehead	0.1	0.32	4	39	r
Bognor R	-	0.09	6	43	r	Morecambe	7.3	-	7	45	s
Bournem'th	-	0.25	6	43	r	Newcastle	8.2	-	8	46	s
Bristol	-	0.05	6	43	c	*Newquay*	-	0.32	8	46	r
Buxton	4.8	-	4	39	s	Norwich	7.3	-	8	46	s
Cardiff	-	0.13	5	41	r	Oxford	-	0.01	7	45	r
Clacton	3.6	-	5	41	c	Penzance	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Poole	-	0.19	6	43	r
Colwyn Bay	3.5	-	7	45	b	Prestatyn	X				
Cromer	7.4	-	7	45	s	Ross-o-wye	0.2	-	6	43	c
Dunbar	X					Ryde	X				
Eastbourne	X					Salcombe	X				
Edinburgh	7.9	-	7	45	s	Sandown	-	0.18	6	43	r
Eskdalemuir	6.7	0.02	6	43	s	Saunton Snd	-	0.23	5	41	du
Exmouth	-	0.21	6	43	r	Scarboro'	8.6	0.01	7	45	s
Falmouth	-	0.37	9	48	sh	Shanklin	X				
Fishguard	X					*Shrewsbury*	*5.6*	-	*7*	*45*	*s*
Folkestone	0.2	0.04	6	43	r	Skegness	7.2	0.04	7	45	s
Glasgow	X					Southend	X				
Guernsey	0.3	0.63	10	50	r	Southport	7.0	-	7	45	s
Hastings	-	0.05	6	43	r	Southsea	-	0.13	6	43	r
Hayling I.	-	0.11	6	43	r	Stornoway	7.0	0.03	7	45	h
Herne Bay	0.3	-	7	45	b	Swanage	-	0.09	6	43	r
Hove	-	X	7	45	sh	Teignmouth	-	0.30	6	43	r
Hunstanton	X	-	7	45	s	Tenby	-	0.15	5	41	sh
Isle of Man	6.5	-	7	45	s	Tiree	4.5	0.11	7	45	sh
Jersey	0.1	0.52	11	52	r	Torquay	-	0.41	7	45	r
Kinloss	3.0	0.02	6	43	sl	Tynemouth	-	-	7	45	b
Leeds	7.5	-	9	48	s	Ventnor	-	0.10	6	43	r
Lerwick	-	*0.01*	*1*	*34*	*sn*	West-s-mare	-	0.09	6	43	r
Leuchars	8.7	-	7	45	s	Weymouth	-	0.13	6	43	c

[illegible]

Ajaccio	16	61	s	Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	17	63	f	Rome	15	59	c
Akrotiri	15	59	f	C'phagn	6	43	c	Malaga	18	64	f	S Fr'isco	13	55	s
Alex'dria	*18*	*64*	*f*	Dublin	6	43	f	Malta	17	63	f	S Paulo	29	84	f
Algiers	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	11	52	c	Melb'rne	25	77	s	Salzburg	11	52	c
Amst'dm	5	41	r	Faro	18	64	s	Mexico C	20	68	s	Santiago	31	88	s
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	14	57	c	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	3	37	s
B Aires	27	81	s	Frankfurt	8	46	f	Milan	11	52	f	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	17	63	s	Funchal	17	63	f	Montreal	-17	1	s	St'kholm	-3	-	c
Bangkok	31	88	c	Geneva	9	48	r	Moscow	2	36	c	Strasb'rg	7	45	f
Barbados	28	82	f	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Munich	12	54	f	Sydney	22	72	c
Barcelona	*18*	*64*	*f*	*Helsinki*	*1*	*34*	*c*	N Delhi	21	70	s	Tangier	16	61	f
Beirut	16	61	f	Hong K	14	57	r	N York	-1	30	s	Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Belgrade	12	54	f	Innsbrck	13	55	f	Nairobi	X			Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	9	48	f	Istanbul	12	54	s	Naples	16	61	f	Tokyo	8	46	s
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	25	77	f	*Nice*	*16*	*61*	*f*	Toronto	-9	16	sn
Biarritz	11	52	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	1	34	f	Tunis	21	70	s
Borde'x	12	54	f	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	8	46	f	Valencia	17	63	f
Brussels	5	41	r	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	9	48	s	Vanc'ver	5	41	r
Budapest	*7*	*45*	*c*	*Le Touqt*	*8*	*46*	*f*	Perth	29	84	s	Venice	9	48	fg
Cairo	18	64	f	Lisbon	17	63	c	Prague	10	50	f	Vienna	15	59	s
Cape Tn	22	72	f	Locarno	9	48	s	Reykjavik	3	37	c	Warsaw	8	46	c
Ch'church	16	61	X	Luxembg	5	41	c	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	2	36	f
Chicago	*-2*	*28*	*f*	*Luxor*	*21*	*70*	*s*	*Rio de J*	*32*	*90*	*f*	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cologne	7	45	r	Madrid	12	54	f	Riyadh	17	63	s	Zurich	10	50	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low V will rush northeastwards but will start to fill; high G will build and drift south east across the Baltic, extending southwards; low O will fill, drifting into the eastern Mediterranean

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

Halifax heats up mortgage price war

By Caroline Merrell

THE Halifax Building Society and other big mortgage lenders have begun a new round of the mortgage price war, in some cases cutting fixed-rate loans by more than 1 per cent.

The rate cuts are made possible by the refusal of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to bow to pressure from the Bank of England to increase the base rate.

The Halifax, the UK's biggest mortgage lender, is now offering five-year loans with rates starting at 7.65 per cent, down from 8.45 per cent. Someone taking a £60,000 loan today will pay £425.81 a month, down from £454.85. About 15 per cent of the 2.5 million Halifax borrowers are on fixed rates.

Gary Marsh, for the Halifax, said: "Fixed rates are set by the level of rates in the money markets. It is an indication that the market thinks that interest rates are not going to rise by as much as they thought they were."

Other Halifax fixed rates include a three-year fix at 6.9 per cent, and two years at 6.45 per cent.

The Alliance & Leicester, the Chelsea and Abbey National are also cutting rates on fixed-rate loans. The A&L is now offering a five-year fix of 7.74 per cent, and the Chelsea is offering a 7.49 percent loan. Abbey National is offering two years at 6.85 per cent.

☐ The Halifax has poached Sue Concannon, business development director of Sharelink, to run the share-dealing subsidiary that will handle sales from eight million prospective Halifax shareholders. Halifax is replacing Sharelink, which has run its dealing service.

Martin Sorrell has already enjoyed some £2.9 million in free shares under the first tranche of his incentive scheme

Sorrell heading for £28m bonus jackpot

By Fraser Nelson

MARTIN SORRELL, chief executive of WPP, could be less than a year from hitting his £28 million bonus jackpot, if the advertising group returns profits ahead of forecasts on Wednesday.

Mr Sorrell, who has already enjoyed some £2.9 million in free shares under the first tranche of his lucrative incentive scheme, is due to receive the second tranche, worth £2.7 million, on March 14 if the shares remain above 230p. WPP's shares advanced 8½p yesterday, to 252½p, just below the third trigger point of 265p. A further stake will be released if they stay above this threshold for 60 trading days.

The City is expecting WPP to return profits of £150 million for 1996, up from £114 million, and lift earnings per share 38 per cent, to 12.5p. If it outstrips these forecasts, and if the bull market continues its run, analysts say that the shares could soon pass 265p and hit 304p within 12 months, triggering the remaining share release.

A share surge is made all the more likely by recent growth in the sector. At a rating of 27 times, WPP's shares are some way behind Abbot Mead Vickers, the market leader, whose shares trade on a ratio of 40 times. On the same rating WPP's shares would be worth 363p.

Mr Sorrell's incentive scheme was drawn up two years ago when the company was recovering from near-collapse after the advertising recession of the early Nineties. His reforms have since won him a strong City following, and few analysts begrudge him the free shares. Lorna Tilbian of Panmure Gordon said: "When you look at what has happened to the company's market value since the scheme started, you can see that the guy has delivered."

WPP is still paying off the debts taken out when Mr Sorrell sealed a contract to buy Ogilvie, the US-based advertising giant, in 1988. While this turned WPP into the largest advertising company in the world, it left it with debts that almost crushed the company during the recession.

Some of WPP's followers have not forgiven Mr Sorrell for the collapse, which in 1990 prompted its shares to plunge from 609p to 42p. One said: "We are looking at the same man who gave the same message in the 1980s, and he let us down badly. The company looks back on its feet now, but losing three quarters of your investment over a few days is not something you forget quickly."

WPP is expected to have reduced its debt pile from £215 million to £150 million, and to have increased its use of freelances so that it can quickly downsize if the market suffers another downturn.

The free shares are being released from a holding taken out by WPP when the shares were at 115p. The company says that while Mr Sorrell will make millions, the costs to shareholders will be minimal.

Payout for staff as Lloyds leaps 52%

By Robert Miller
Banking Correspondent

MORE than 80,000 staff of Lloyds TSB are in line for bonus and salary increases worth an average of £1,000 each after the banking group yesterday unveiled a 52 per cent jump in pre-tax profits, to £2.6 billion.

Charities will also benefit from the £13 million transferred from the record profit figures to the Lloyds TSB Foundation. That money will be distributed this year.

Starting the UK bank reporting season, Lloyds TSB, which is raising its final dividend, due on May 1, by 20 per cent to 9p, to take the annual payout to 13.2p, said that it had set aside £100 million for the staff profit-sharing scheme. Each qualifying member will receive 10 per cent of basic salary as a bonus, and there will be a 5 per cent pay rise.

Under the staff deal, the company is to integrate the various staff pension schemes in the expanded retail personal financial services group and make them non-contributory.

Bifu, the finance union, welcomed the 30 per cent increase in the staff bonus scheme, but said that up to 10,000 more jobs were still at risk as integration of Lloyds and TSB continued. Bifu called for a guarantee of no compulsory redundancies and for customers, local communities and the union to be consulted over proposals to close branches.

Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, which saw earnings per share rise to 31.2p, against 19.2p in 1995, said: "Job security comes from winning. If you are a loser, then you lose a lot of jobs."

Shares in Lloyds TSB closed 1½p up, at 503½p, last night.

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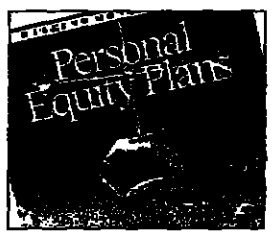

Weekend Money Guide 3
Personal Equity Plans

London shares close at record

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

LONDON shares achieved a record closing high in celebration of this week's surge beyond 7,000 by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 13.9 points higher at 4,341.0, but this was below the day's best levels. The Dow took a breather after its record-breaking run over the past three sessions, which on Thursday took it above the 7,000 level for the first time.

At the London close, the Dow stood around ten points lower as investors turned cautious after such speedy gains this week.

Despite the rather subdued mood on Wall Street yesterday, the economic news from America was encouraging. US Treasury bonds moved higher on publication of figures showing that industrial production was flat and that wholesale prices had fallen 0.3 per cent in January, the first monthly decline for more than two years.

The bond market took these two items of news as evidence that the US economy's rate of growth may be slowing and that inflationary pressures are likely to remain subdued. This should mean that the need for higher American interest rates is limited or at least that there is no great urgency for the US Federal Reserve to tighten monetary policy.

Market report, page 30

Pearson plans to interview Mayer

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON, the media and entertainment group, plans to interview Peter Mayer, the former chief executive of Penguin, and dozens of current and former employees as part of its investigation into the book publisher's improper accounting in America.

Insiders said that Mr Mayer was "devastated" by Pearson's claims that one of his former employees, a bookkeeper who worked in Penguin's accounts office in New Jersey, had extended unauthorised discounts to book retailers since 1991 in exchange for prompt payment. The discounts are to be written off by Pearson as bad debts.

The company is to take a £100 million charge to cover the bad debt, the costs of the investigation and any rebates demanded by retailers that were not offered discounts. Pearson said it has not been able to establish a motive for the unauthorised discounts, but would not rule out fraud.

Mr Mayer was travelling and could not be reached for comment. Pearson emphasised that he had no knowledge of the improper accounting, which was "smothered" in a mountain of transactions and different accounts over the years.

Mr Mayer became Penguin's chief executive in 1978 and resigned last year. He now runs a small New York book publisher called Overlook Press, which he started in 1971.

New all-weather holiday village will create 900 jobs

Rank to challenge Center Parcs

By Sarah Cunningham

THE battle for the hearts and wallets of Britain's less adventurous holidaymakers intensified yesterday as Rank Group confirmed plans to open an all-weather holiday village in Cumbria in May. It will be the first serious rival to Center Parcs, owned by Scottish & Newcastle.

Center Parcs is seeking to stave off the competition by refurbishing its Sherwood Forest holiday village, which is ten years old and was the first of its three in Britain to be built. Plans are also on the drawing board to refurbish the Center Parc at Elveden in Suffolk.

Center Parcs has proved to be a hit in the UK, especially with young families, but tough trading conditions on the Continent last year led to a £5 million fall in operating profit at the halfway stage. Bookings this year are well ahead of last year, a spokeswoman said. She said anyone hoping to spend next Christmas or New Year at a Center Parc would be disappointed — they are fully booked.

Rank said its £100 million Oasis Forest Holiday Village in Cumbria would create almost 900 jobs. The village is in 400 acres of mature woodland. Accommodation will be in Scandinavian-style wooden lodges. The investment will create 700 full-time and a 180 part-time positions.

Like Center Parcs, Oasis will feature a range of leisure facilities, including a country club, health spa and indoor village centre with restaurants, shops and "sub-tropical world of water".

James Whittell, managing director of Oasis, said demand had exceeded expectations since a marketing campaign was launched in October.

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4341.0	(+13.9)
Yield	3.61%	
FTSE All share	2114.12	([illegible])
Nikkei	18722.98	(+33.94)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7002.81	(-19.63)*
S&P Composite	808.48	(-2.84)*
Federal Funds	5¼% *	([illegible])
Long Bond	101[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	6.58%*	(6.63%)
3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	([illegible])
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	112[illegible]	(113[illegible])
New York:		
$	1.6210*	(1.6240)
London:		
$	1.6216	(1.6221)
DM	2.7334	(2.7367)
FFr	9.2234	(9.2402)
SFr	2.3707	(2.3564)
Yen	201.33	(202.21)
£ Index	97.7	(97.8)
London:		
DM	1.6860*	(1.6830)
FFr	5.6905*	(5.6845)
SFr	1.4645*	(1.4545)
Yen	124.11*	(124.25)
$ Index	103.8	(103.9)

Tokyo close Yen 124.65

Brent 15-day (May)	$20.20	(unc)
London close	$343.65	($341.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Williams fall

Shares in Williams Holdings fell more than 10 per cent after the City concluded it had overpaid with its £1.3 billion offer for Chubb. The fall resulted in Williams's demotion from the FT-SE 100 index, where it will be replaced by Centrica, the demerged supply arm of British Gas. Page 28

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Renault in warning over loss

Renault, the French carmaker, has said that its 1996 operating loss will be considerably more than *market expectations.*

Analysts had pencilled in an operating loss of Fr1.3 billion to Fr1.6 billion after erosion of margins by a *price war among* carmakers fighting to boost their share of Europe's slow-growing market.

French car sales fell 34 *per cent in January,* showing the market's underlying weakness after two years of state support through incentives for buyers *of new vehicles. These* ended in the autumn.

Cash call

Electrophoretics International, the *biotechnology* research company, is raising £4.1 million via an underwritten placing and open offer of one new share for every six held at 40p each to fund development and marketing of technology that *detects diseases with blood* tests. For 1996, pre-tax losses were £1.59 million, in line with budget, against 1995's £1.39 million loss. *The shares rose* 5p to 48½p.

Prowting deal

Prowting has paid £11.6 million for Magnus Homes, a housebuilder in the West Country and the Midlands. Magnus Holdings made a pre-tax profit of £901,000 last year. The *company has net assets of* £6.4 *million* and accrued tax losses of £27 million.

Inchcape idea

Inchcape, the car dealership group, and NWS *Bank are to set up a company* offering car loans and other financial services at Inchcape dealerships. The car company will provide car loans, insurance and warranties, but hopes later to offer other services.

Fieldens 'loss'

Fieldens, the AIM-listed farm machinery supplier, expects a "small loss" for its first half, to December 31. It blamed tough trading on dry weather, BSE and the strong pound, which cut sales and profits for the first time in its history. The shares fell 13p, to 52½p.

Sykes warmer

Shares in Andrews Sykes rose 7½p, to 507½p, as the portable heating and air conditioning group said it expected 1996 pre-tax profits to be 6 to 8 per cent above market expectations. Preliminary results are due in *late April.*

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Stepping up: Roger Carr, left, chief executive of Williams, with Sir Nigel Rudd, the chairman, yesterday after their £1.3 billion offer for Chubb

Williams £1.3bn Chubb bid condemned as too high

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Williams Holdings *fell more than 10 per cent* yesterday as the City concluded that the company had overpaid with its £1.3 billion offer for Chubb Security.

The shares closed at 300½p, down 37½p, valuing the company's cash and shares offer at 435p. *Chubb shares closed up* 4½p, at 424½p.

The decline in Williams's share price resulted in demotion from the FT-SE 100, *where it will be replaced by* Centrica, the demerged supply arm of British Gas. But Williams will return to the FT-SE *if the Chubb deal, which* creates a £3 billion company, is finalised.

Analysts were critical of the price, which equates to 21 times historic earnings, although most agreed that the two companies would make a *good fit. In December 1991* Williams made a £760 million bid for Racal before Chubb was demerged.

Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, *said that the acquisition* would cause "modest" dilution of earnings this year but would enhance earnings *in subsequent years.* Williams is seeking a new five-year £1 billion credit facility to help to finance the purchase.

The deal combines Williams's own security product companies, Yale and Kidder, with Chubb to create a *company with sales of £2.7 billion* and a global reach.

Rumours that another bidder might enter the fray continued, with the market suggesting that deep-pocketed security companies such as US-based Tyco International could still be interested by Chubb. But most felt that Williams's price would scare off any rivals.

Williams downplayed worries that competition authorities may try to block the deal. It said it would have to negotiate with the Office of Fair Trading *but analysts* expect the takeover to be cleared as long as some minor disposals are made.

Williams is aiming for cost savings of £26 million over the next two years, although it did not reveal the likely level of job cuts in the 34,000-strong combined workforce. The company hopes to improve profits at Chubb by £14 million, while reorganisation costs are expected to be £30 million.

Williams also forecast that full-year profits for 1996 would show a rise of 11 per cent, to *£243 million. The total* dividend is expected to rise 5.6 per cent, to 15.05p. The company is offering two Williams shares and 704.12p in cash for every three Chubb shares.

Tempus, page 30

Greenalls 'cautious' on trading prospects

By Alasdair Murray

*GREENALLS GROUP, the re*tail pub company, said yesterday that it was "cautious" about this year's trading prospects but expected to make good *progress throughout 1997.*

Andrew Thomas, the chairman, revealed that trading was ahead in the first four months of this year in core food and drink operations at its 2,360 pubs.

The vital Christmas period, during which the company generates as much as 20 per *cent of its full-year turnover,* started slowly but rapidly improved to give an 8.5 per cent increase in food and drink sales per outlet. Shares in the company rose 7½p, to 558p.

Over the first four months of the year, *food sales increased* 11.2 per cent per outlet, while drinks sales rose 3.8 per cent.

At De Vere hotels, room yield increased 15 per cent, *and 9 per cent on a like-for-like* basis.

Grosvenor set to grow

By Alasdair Murray

GROSVENOR INNS is selling part of its estate to concen*trate on expanding its Slug* and Lettuce chain.

Tim Thwaites, chairman, said the pub group had agreed to sell its Bar Central brand to Queens Ice, a newly created leisure company, for £2 million. The three bar-restaurants generated a profit of £250,000 last year and had a book value of £2.6 million.

Grosvenor is also paying Inntrepreneur Pub Company *£500,000 to take over five loss*making pubs and is selling the Old Windmill pub for £575,000.

*Mr Thwaites said the com*pany had made the sales to free capital for investment in the 15-strong Slug and Lettuce brand. He added that Grosvenor intended to spend about £3 million this year on expansion with the aim of opening *20 new sites in the next two* years.

Grosvenor will also consider selling more of its 47 pubs — including the Hedgehog and *Hogshead chain — to raise* further development funds.

The disposals came as Grosvenor unveiled a 25 per cent increase in half-year profits before tax to £1.1 million. Turnover grew 36 per cent to £11.8 million.

Sales at the Slug and Lettuce chain grew 43 per cent and profits 27 per cent. Sales at the original nine houses, acquired *in 1992,* were up 22 per cent and profits up 20 per cent.

The interim dividend is increased 10 per cent to 3.025p, payable on March 27. Shares *in Grosvenor closed down* 17½p at 206p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Extortion threat sees Arnotts suspended

SHARES in Arnotts, Australia's largest biscuit maker, were suspended from trading on the Australian Stock Exchange yesterday after a bizarre extortion threat forced the company to recall all its products from supermarket *shelves for fear* they had been poisoned. Arnotts, which has a 65 per cent share of the *Australian biscuit market,* said the cost of the recall, the biggest ever in Australia, could run into millions of dollars. Chris Roberts, managing director, said: "Clearly this is a very bad day for Arnotts, a very bad day for the Australian food industry and a very bad day for the community of Australia."

Hospitals were put on immediate red alert after letters containing poisoned biscuits were sent to six addresses in New South Wales and Queensland. Public health authorities warned that the poison in one biscuit would be enough to kill a small child. *Police said the letters* said that packets of contaminated biscuits would appear on supermarket shelves from next week if certain demands were not met.

Mine talks collapse

TALKS between RTZ-CRA, the Anglo-Australian mining company, and aboriginal groups over *development* of the massive Century zinc mine in the state of Queensland collapsed after the deadline for agreement passed. Negotiations will now shift to the federal native title tribunal where a binding agreement can take up to six months. Rick Farley, *the lead negotiator for the* 12 aboriginal groups, said that RTZ-CRA and the Queensland government have withdrawn a A$60 million (£28.5 million) jobs and compensation package that was offered during the *talks.*

BR sells Opal to Atkins

W S Atkins, the technology *consultant,* has bought Opal Engineering from the British Railways Board for an undisclosed price. Opal's main customer is Railtrack, for which it carries out reviews and technical audits of signalling schemes. Opal employs about 170 people and had turnover last year of £11.9 million. It will become part of W S Atkins Rail, whose activities include design and maintenance, overhead power systems, and safety and environmental assessments. Michael Jeffries, Atkins's *chief executive,* said there were opportunities to develop Opal's business overseas.

Vitec buys Anton-Bauer

VITEC, the engineering group, is paying $22 million in cash for Anton-Bauer of Connecticut, a leading manufacturer of microprocessor battery systems. Vitec already distributes Anton-Bauer's broadcast and professional video equipment *products in the UK.* Anton-Bauer, which is being sold by its two founders, made a pre-tax profit of $36,000 last year, although before interest and owner's participation it made $2.5 million. At December 31 the company had net assets of $6.1 million. Malcolm Baggott, Vitec chief executive, said he expected the acquisition to improve earnings this year.

Capitol to buy SIS

CAPITOL GROUP, the surveillance and investigation company, has agreed to pay up to £2.87 million for Specialised Investigation Services, a Manchester firm that checks on in*surance claimants. SIS had turnover last year of £2.8 million* and lost £43,000 after paying its directors £361,000. Stephen Hayes, SIS founder and a former policeman, remains managing director on a one-year contract. Capitol is paying £1 million in cash and issuing the vendors with 589,970 new shares, valued at 169½p. The balance of £870,000 depends on SIS profits of at least £420,000 in the year to January 1998.

Birse resurrects payout

BIRSE GROUP, the construction and plant hire group, is resuming dividend payments after lifting pre-tax profits to *£1.2 million, from £300,000, in the half year to October 31.* Earnings were 0.5p a share, compared with 0.1p previously. The interim dividend of 0.2p a share is payable on May 2. The company said that net debt was reduced to £4.9 million, from £7.1 million, helped by receipts of £6.8 million from property sales.

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Cedardata shares plummet

By Oliver August

CEDARDATA, the computer software company, lost more than half its market value yesterday when it gave warning of an expected drop in profits for the year to March 31.

Results will be considerably below market expectations because a number of contracts have been delayed, particularly in the public sector. Pricing had become increasingly competitive in the health sector, the company said.

The company told the Stock Exchange that it will be taking steps to reduce overheads to a sustainable level, consistent with providing an acceptable quality of service. It blamed some of the delays on the impact of the Govern*ment's Private Finance* Initiative.

The share price ended the day at 123½p, down 139p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.21	2.05
Austria Sch	20.11	18.61
Belgium Fr	59.04	54.74
Canada $	2.290	2.130
Cyprus Cyp£	0.844	0.789
Denmark Kr	10.93	10.13
Finland Mkk	8.61	7.98
France Fr	9.58	8.93
Germany Dm	2.87	2.68
Greece Dr	443	417
Hong Kong $	13.16	12.18
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.69	5.04
Italy Lira	2807	2632
Japan Yen	215.50	199.50
Malta	0.654	0.599
Netherlands Gld	3.200	2.970
New Zealand $	2.48	2.26
Norway Kr	11.32	10.52
Portugal Esc	284.00	265.50
S Africa Rd	7.74	6.94
Spain Pta	241.50	224.50
Sweden Kr	12.57	11.77
Switzerland Fr	2.47	2.29
Turkey Lira	204100	190100
USA $	1.715	1.585

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Brown & Jackson rues draw

By Sarah Cunningham

BROWN & JACKSON, the Poundstretcher retailer, yesterday blamed the new midweek lottery for the latest setback in its slow recovery.

Christo Wiese, chairman, said that sales in the six weeks *to February 8 were up 10* per cent on last year. "Sales were, however, adversely affected by the double rollover week of the National Lottery and the start of the midweek draw," he said.

Pre-tax profit rose *27* per cent, to £5.74 million, in the *half year to December 31,* and like-for-like sales grew by 1 per cent. However, Mr Wiese said: "Due to the seasonality of the business, losses are normally incurred in the last six months of the financial year." Some uncertainty remained because *of tough conditions in Pound*stretcher's sector, he said.

There is again no interim dividend.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Co-op at the crossroads

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Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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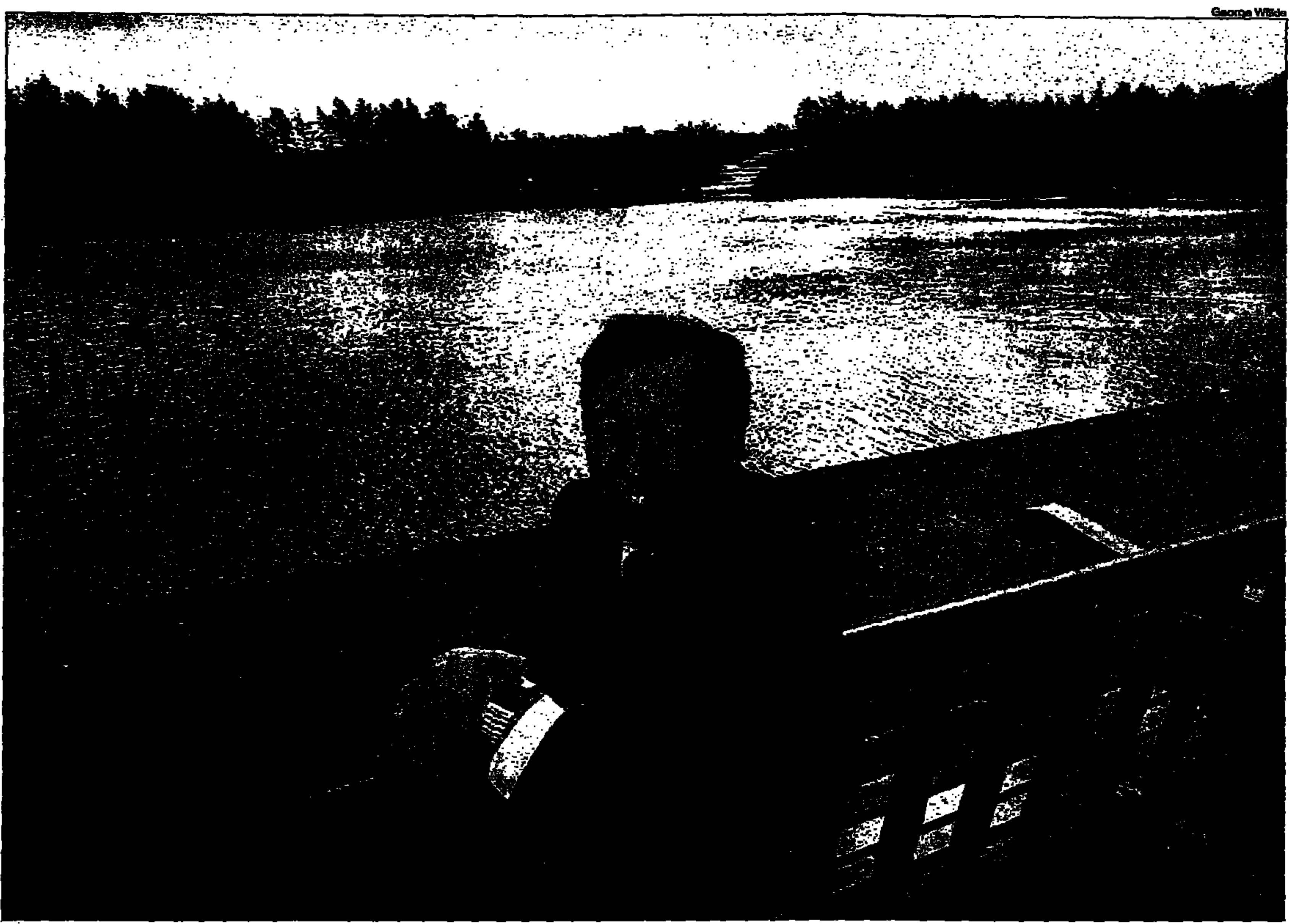
A WORKING WEEK FOR: GRAEME ALEXANDER

Beauty is skin deep for Devro's chief

Sausage skins may not fire your imagination, but **Sarah Cunningham** meets a man who is very much wrapped up in them


George Wilkie

Graeme Alexander enjoys a respite from globetrotting. Now he is trying to let others take more of the trips. "You have to settle back a little," he says

PEOPLE receive honours for all manner of things; for fighting for Queen and country, writing pop songs, or even putting in years of service as a *lollipop* lady. But Graeme Alexander must be the first person to receive a gong for making enough sausage skins to go to the Moon and back.

Alexander, the chief executive of Devro, the Scottish-based sausage skin company that was floated in 1993, was appointed *OBE* in the *last* New Year's Honours List. He was as surprised as anyone when he was first notified, in November.

"It so happened that I was out in *Australia at the time and I had been out* on the town with some of the guys that run our operation there," he recalls. "I got back *to the hotel at about* two in the *morning* and found a note stuck to my door saying 'please ring your wife urgently'. Underneath it said 'not bad news' *so I wasn't* too worried.

"I rang up and she said 'where have you been?' Anyway, she then said there was a *letter from 10 Downing Street saying that* I'd been recommended for an OBE. I was so surprised I nearly fell out off my chair." The recommendation was for "services to the food industry". *He* says he is not sure who put his name forward, *but suspects it was the* Scottish Office. He also thinks it has a great deal to do with *his* proudest achievement at Devro, which was the acquisition of its much larger American rival, Teepak. It is only as a result of buying Teepak, which is about three times the size of Devro, that *he is able to claim that the group makes* enough sausage skins in a year to make the aforementioned round trip to the Moon.

To you and me, a sausage skin is a simple thing and not one worthy of much attention. But, as Alexander will happily *point out*, there are many different types of sausage casing and they must be able to do many different things. The British banger is encased in collagen, which is *made from the underside of cattle hide* and, which is very thin but also strong enough to withstand the blasting of meat into it *during* the *manufacturing* of the sausages, as well as freezing and frying.

Devro is a major collagen producer, whereas Teepak produces mainly cellulose casings *for hotdog-type sausages*, as well as fibrous coatings for salamis and plastic coverings for hams and pâtés.

The enthusiasm with which Alexander *talks about sausage skins* helped to propel the company through an, at times, awkward flotation.

He believes that it was *only when* analysts had seen the factory in Moodiesburn, near Glasgow, and the complex processes that go into sausage *skin production, that they decided that, in* spite of the rather curious nature of the business, Devro had very good *prospects*.

Devro started life as part of Johnson & Johnson, the American healthcare empire, and was *bought out by the management* in 1991. The awkwardness of the flotation came when the man who was *expected to take Devro to the market* as chief executive, David Fyfe, was paid off with £390,000 before he even took the job, chiefly because of City objections. Alexander, who was then technical director and in charge of marketing, took the job instead, and prefers to look back on the whole business as a personal vote of confidence.

The large payoff for Fyfe was, Alexander says, unavoidable: "*He had a contract* with us, he had given in his notice at his previous job, where he had a very nice package. The general view was that we should not have an uncapped liability ahead of the flotation, even if it cost a bit more to cap it." *He said that the affair* spoilt things for a weekend, but then blew over.

Life for the company and for Alexander *since has not been altogether smooth*. Devro's shares were among those hit by the turmoil last year over "mad cow" *disease as people realised that* collagen is a cattle product. A quick decision to stop using British hides allowed the company to reassure customers, but it was nonetheless left with a stock write-off of £4.5 million and an estimated £5 million of *lost sales*. *By* contrast, the outbreaks of *E-Coli* in Scotland have elicited only one worried phone call, *from* Japan. "It took us about a week to convince them that *E-Coli* was a butchers' issue," Alexander says.

He is philosophical about the effects of BSE on business: "We *have weathered the BSE storm* reasonably effectively. Undoubtedly, we would have been better off if it had not happened, *but it has not been the disaster* it might have been."

> ❝I feel like other people go to offices, and I go to airports❞

For him, getting the purchase of Teepak through the American anti-trust minefield *was the biggest challenge he* has had to face. The idea of buying the American company arose soon after flotation. "We formed the view that we *could be just a collagen company, but that* would take you into sorts of areas such as biomedical, food additives, cosmetics. You become almost a conglomerate defined around your raw material. That was not the appropriate direction in which to go," he said.

The *other route* was to widen the range of sausage skins made and that led directly to Chicago-based Teepak. In 1994, Alexander made his first visit to Teepaks' owner, Hillside Capital in New York. The agreement in principle was reached fairly quickly, but the deal then went to the *Federal Trade Commission*, which took nine months to give clearance.

During the period of discussions leading up to the deal, and in the subsequent *period of integrating the two companies*, Alexander's working weeks developed a regular *but exhausing pattern*: "I would usually take the 6.30pm plane on Sunday from Heathrow to New York, have discussions Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, *probably fly back* Wednesday night, and then come in here [his office in Scotland] on Thursday and Friday."

Since then, it has calmed down and he now goes to America about once a month. But he also still travels all round the world to keep an eye on manufacturing *and markets*. "*We have major operations* in the UK, the US, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Australia. We have a marketing operation in Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, Holland," he says with a hint of weariness. All have to be visited regularly and he reckons that last year he was *overseas* about 60 per cent of the time.

The travelling keeps him away a great deal from his home in Killearn, five miles from Loch Lomond — and apart from his wife Cathy, two daughters, Mhairi, 13, and Alison, 11, and son, Gordon, 9.

Among his neighbours, he is considered something of an anomaly: "Everyone else finds my travelling a bit strange. I feel like other people go to offices, and I go to *airports*." A few years ago, the constant travelling began to get to him. "I got to the *stage where I detested it, I just didn't want* to get on a plane." This was not good news for his family when it came to summer holiday time and they were packed off in the car to the windy Western Isles *rather* than heading off to the sun by plane. Strategic *pressure applied by* the children means that they now go on a short flight to the Algarve *in Portugal each* summer.

Travelling also *means he cannot play* golf as much as he would like, but he still sometimes finds time on his trips to indulge his love of music. One of his *happiest memories is seeing Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte performed* at the Sydney Opera House, and another is an outdoor performance of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* at Princeton University one Independence Day.

With Teepak now largely bedded down, he is trying to let other people do a lot of *the travelling*. "There was a *stage when I* had to see and be seen, but you have to seek a happy medium. You have to settle back a little," he says.

Alexander *sees himself* above all as a manager, although his background is as an engineer, and he has a PhD in production engineering. "For the last 15 or 16 years I have had a much more managerial role, but I can still talk technology," he says, "What I enjoy is *leading the team*."

Engineering was in his blood. His father owned an engineering company in Glasgow and Alexander's early intention was to go back and take over that business.

But circumstances at Devro — his rise through the ranks, the buyout, the flotation and *his elevation to the job* of chief executive — meant that he never left. The family firm was gradually broken up and sold.

That has never worried him — or, fortunately, his father. "Given the chance to go back to 1977 when I joined the company, and knowing what has happened to me and has happened to the company, what would I do? I'd do the self-same thing again. I have no regrets *whatsoever*."

Gem of an art collection to enliven house of diamonds

Joanna Pitman views a daring display of contemporary works at De Beers

The London headquarters of De Beers in Farringdon is heavily guarded. Visitors must negotiate two or three identification hurdles before being ushered into the reception area, where they sit beneath a large tapestry of Central Park waiting for a last check on their credentials.

The security is tight because high up on one of the upper floors — staff are *reluctant to divulge which* — is the De Beers diamond sorting room where one can only imagine thousands of stones laid out on trays of rich black velvet.

Downstairs a collection of alternative *gems has been* assembled, considerably less valuable in market terms but as important to De Beers staff as the vaults of rocks that most have never seen. In the past couple of years, *under* the guiding eye of Sophie Oppenheimer, De Beers has updated its collection *of art*, assembling a range of daring contemporary works that would not look out *of place* in the newest and most challenging of modern art galleries.

Visiting *diamond* merchants are known to delay departure to view and contemplate arresting images *by* Paula Rego, Damien Hirst and Peter Howson, the young artist who recorded *some of the most* horrifying pictures of the war in Bosnia.

Oppenheimer has chosen with a *sharp* eye, deftly spotting many of the artists — and buying their works — just before they went *on to* win *the* Turner Prize. In 1995 she bought a series of works by Rachel Whiteread, Damien Hirst, Angus Fairhurst, Nicholas May and *Gavin* Turk, all names that have made headlines with heart-stopping works in the *intervening years*.

"I seldom spend more than about £3,000 to £4,000 on any one piece, but *I* think the impression of the collection as a whole brings the office up to date," she says. "It gets people talking about the art. Not everyone likes all the pieces by any means but they are all *interested*."

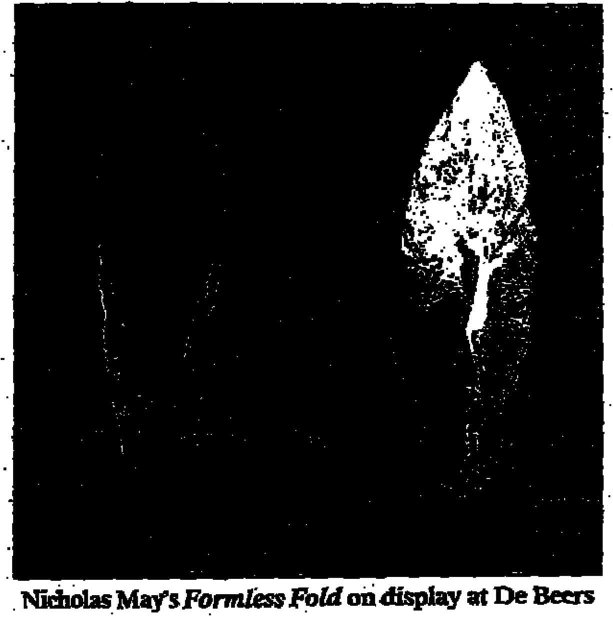
Leaving the lift on one of the commercial floors, visi*tors are greeted by a colossal* bull rearing up in fury, nostrils flaring, eyes burning. *It* is a beautifully executed work in charcoal on brown paper by Nicola Hicks. Near by is a large wax *painting on linen by Atoro* de Stefano, a moving image of Picasso as an old man. There is a *David* Hockney and an Andy Warhol, and along one corridor a series of prints by Paula Rego from her Peter Pan series, all of them heavy with her dark and menacing undertones of abuse.

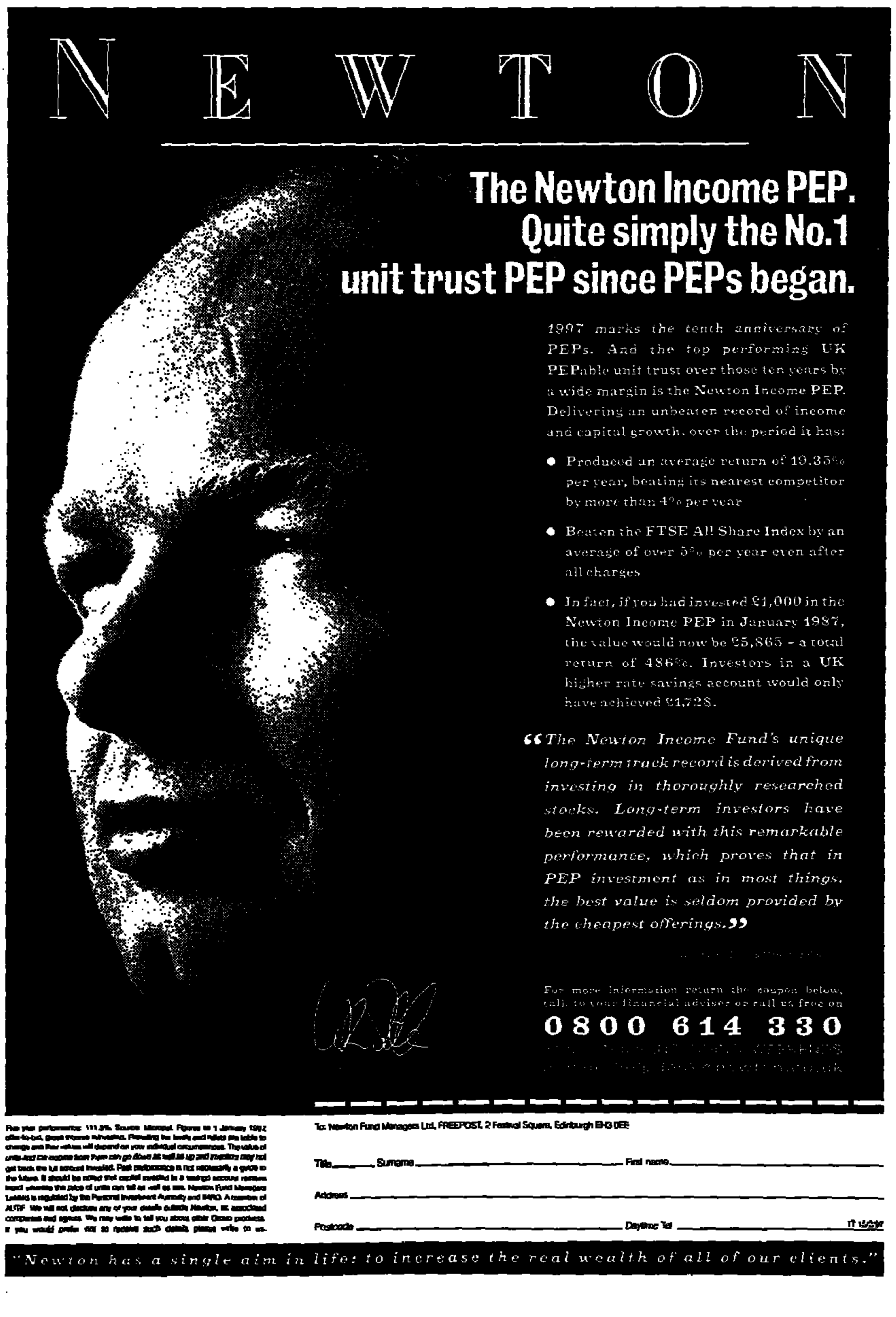
There is a print by Richard Hamilton from a photograph *of* Mick Jagger being arrested, a series by Mario Rossi, *paintings* of the final stills from *True Grit* and *The Barefoot Contessa*, and *a picture by Stephen* Farthing that has the feel of a graffiti-daubed wall. Close to the lifts is a John Keane painting of a rubbish dump in South America crawling with children and cats scav*enging through the stinking* junk for food.

Although some of the images are *shocking*, none *is* provocative in a political or religious sense. "The collection is designed to enliven the place," Oppenheimer says. "One or two have been placed out of the mainstream corridor areas because so many people objected to them, but I don't think that is *necessarily* a *bad thing*. All the pieces fit together as a collection of British contemporary art and there are bound to be unpopular works in any such collection."

Douglas Gordon, who won last year's Turner Prize, is represented with a black and white *photograph* of a hitch-hiker labelled *Psycho*. Oppenheimer bought it before he won the *prize* and is pleasantly surprised at its popularity.

But one picture has *earned* almost universal opprobrium. *Hear no Evil See no Evil* by Marc Quinn is a black and white photograph of a man's head and shoulders *with bits of human* brain, ear and nose superimposed on the face and a rubber bung in the mouth. De Beers *staff* took a vote and had it banished to a far-flung corridor.


Nicholas May's *Formless Fold* on display at De Beers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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Shares close at record despite halving gains

ENCOURAGED by Wall Street's move above the 7,000 level overnight for the first time, investors on the London stock market were in celebratory mood yesterday.

Despite seeing earlier gains halved, the FT-SE 100 index closed 13.9 up at a new closing high of 4,341.0 after hitting an all-time peak of 4,353.4 earlier in the day. That stretches the *gain on the week to 75.1.* A total of 924 million shares had traded by the close of business.

Brokers expressed satisfaction with the London market's performance and said some profit-taking, prompted by an opening fall in the Dow Jones industrial average last night, *was inevitable.*

Williams Holdings fell 37½p to 300½p after confirming it was the bidder for **Chubb Security**. Brokers appeared split over its £1.3 billion offer, which values the security and fire protection specialist at 450p a share. Some appeared worried over short-term earnings dilution, *while others* looked to the forecast of strong earnings enhancement in year three. Chubb moved 4½p ahead to 424½p.

Coincidentally, the fall in the Williams share price secured its demise as a constituent of the top 100 companies. From Monday, it must make way for **BG** and **Centrica**, the *two demerged British Gas* companies.

They have been trading on the grey market all week. Centrica, which includes the retail arm and Morecambe Bay gasfield, closed ½p steadier at 75½p on turnover of 7.45 million shares. BG, which includes the exploration and pipeline operations, rose 6½p to 170½p.

Pilot Investment Trust rose *5p to 122p after rejecting an* approach from the **Undervalued Assets Trust**. Pilot described the approach as "unsolicited" and said it undervalued the company. Undervalued Assets saw its price slide 2¾p to 156½p.

Speculative buying continued to chase **Smith & Nephew** 8p higher at 196p, stretching *the lead of the past two days to* 17p. There is talk of a bid from *across the Atlantic* with Johnson & Johnson and Eli Lilley both mentioned.

Kwik Save also stood out with a rise of 28p at 314p on bid speculation. Rumours claim a bid from **Tesco**. This was treated with scepticism in most quarters, although brokers admit Tesco may be up to something. It closed 1½p *lighter at 343p. A total of* 624,908 Kwik Save shares changed hands in a market where traders will normally only make a price in 15,000 at a time.

Dixons, the high street electrical retailer, was forced to deny claims that it was on the verge of launching a television with a built-in decoder. Such a move was deemed to be bad news for the likes of **Pace Microsystems**, down 7p at 164½p. Dixons finished 19p *higher at 518½p.*

Psion shook off recent wor*ries about increased competi*tion from Alan Sugar's **Amstrad** with a leap of 36½p at 403½p. The shares were also underpinned by a "buy" recommendation from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. Amstrad added 5p at 193½p.

The City has high hopes for digital television and the companies involved in it. **Flextech**, which has already linked up with the BBC, rose 18p to 790p amid talk of a big buyer stalking the shares. A total of 683,840 shares were traded.

The success of the Spice Girls, the all-girl pop group, in the US generated further interest in **EMI**, up 24p at £11.99. The EMI share price has tumbled from a peak of £14.86 in the past few months, *overshadowed by the drop-off* in the sale of records and compact discs worldwide. **Copyright Promotions** continues to draw strength from this week's link-up with Playmates Toys to market the Mr Men series of children's books and programmes. The shares rose a further 18½p to 109½p.

Flying Flowers the fresh flowers and bedding plant mail order company based in Jersey, rose 4½p to 220p after delivering record profits of £3.92 million in the year to January 3, a jump of 49 per cent. The company's chairman *is Walter Goldsmith and Tim* Dunningham is managing director. The final dividend of 2.72p makes 4.08p (3.24p) for the year.

A profits warning knocked **Dailywin**, which ended the session 30½p lower at 58½p. The Hong Kong watchmaker *says profits in the second half* are likely to be lower than the £1 million in the first six months.

Cedardata, the computer sofware specialist, was another casualty of a profits warning with the price more than halving by 139p to 123½p. It says profits for the current year would be below expecta*tions. Grieg Middleton*, the broker, had been looking for pre-tax profits of £5.4 million against £4.4 million last time.

English & Overseas, the property developer, fell 3p to 17½p after warning shareholders not to hold out their hands for a final dividend. The net asset value was also likely to fall from 31p to 24p.

Ashurst Technology *scored* a home run with a rise of *29½p at 95p*. The AIM-listed group has signed a contract with Easton Sports in the US to make and market baseball and softball bats.

Huntingdon International rose 7p to 118p after raising £5.75 *million* by way of a placing at 106p. A fund-raising exercise was also good for **Electrophoretics International**, *up 5p at 48½p.*

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Early gains in the London bond market were scaled back after a subdued start to trading by US Treasury bonds in response to weaker than expected producer price data.

The March series of the long gilt firmed £1/16 at £113⅜. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was £⅛ *down at £107¹³⁄₃₂, while* Treasury 7 per cent 2002 firmed a tick to £100⅞.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Investors held back on Wall Street, one day after the Dow Jones industrial average topped 7,000. Some analysts were uncomfortable about the recent fast rise. By midday the Dow was down 19.63 points at 7,002.81.

Tim Dunningham, left, and Walter Goldsmith of Flying Flowers, celebrate record profits and a share rise yesterday

NatWest Securities, the broker, says the support services sector **is due for consolidation after outperforming the rest of the** *market by 30 per cent during the past year. It is telling clients to* **buy Sage, up 5p at 579p, and Misys, up 37½p at £11.37½. But it is turning bearish of Rentokil Initial, down 4½p at 484p.**

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Shield Diagnostics	373½p	+111½p	Hopes for cardio-diagnosis
Ashurst Technology	95p	+42½p	Clinches US sports contract
VDC	160p	-115p	Profits warning
BP	687½p	-48½p	Disappointment with figures
Interoute Telecom	98½p	-34p	Profits warning
Whessoe	158p	+68½p	Siebe bids 155p a share
Chubb Security	424½p	+96p	Williams bids 435p a share
Williams Holdings	300½p	-33p	Bids for Chubb
Copyright Promos	109½p	+29½p	Signs up Mr Men

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7002.81 (-19.63)
S&P Composite 809.48 (-2.34)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18722.00 (+33.84)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13113.36 (-126.69)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 719.49 (+6.99)

Sydney:
AO 2482.0 (+13.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3248.18 (+18.70)

Singapore:
Straits 2252.46 (+2.22)

Brussels:
General 11687.06 (+3.61)

Paris:
CAC-40 2627.42 (-0.99)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 936.60 (+4.90)

London:
FT 30 2858.2 (+20.4)
FT 100 4341.0 (+13.9)
FTSE Mid 250 4606.0 (+19.3)
FTSE 350 2142.0 (+7.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2158.67 (+0.29)
FT All-Share 2114.12 (+6.91)
FT Non Financials 2155.48 (+7.05)
FT Fixed Interest 119.66 (+0.23)
FT Govt Secs 96.45 (-0.11)
Bargains 50288
SEAQ Volume 915.3m
US$ 1.6213 (-0.0009)
German Mark 2.7348 (-0.0019)
Exchange Index 97.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3983
£:SDR 1.1819
RPI 154.4 Dec (2.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 154.2 Dec (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Endowment Red	55½	...
C&B Publishing	175	...
Calldore Group	3½	...
Calldore Warrants	1	...
Epicore Network	55	...
GB Railways	178½	+ 1
Hardy Underwrtg	167	...
John Lewis	4	...
Prelude Tst	118½	...
Prelude Warrants	42½	...
Sutton Harbour	140	+ 1½
Tea Plantations Inv	103½	...
Tea Plantations Wts	30½	...
Zicor Mining	24½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Finelist Gp n/p (320)	50	- ½
Gt Portland n/p (190)	13½	+ 1½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Kwik Save 314p (+28p)
Irish Life 310½p (+18p)
Capital Radio 580p (+25p)
Smith & Neph 196p (+8p)
Dixons Grp 518½p (+19p)
Broken Hill 848½p (+31p)
Regent Inns 373½p (+13p)
Clinton Cards 253½p (+7p)
Croda 328p (+9p)
De La Rue 613½p (+17p)
Inchcape 278½p (+8p)
British Gas 247½p (+8p)
Racal Elect 286p (+9½p)
Aspen Coms 175p (+9½p)
Vero 192½p (+11p)

FALLS:
Concentric 151p (-13½p)
Grosvenor Inns 206p (-17½p)
Morgan Sindall 211½p (-13p)
Oriel 123½p (-7p)
Forward Gp 173½p (-8p)
Clyde Blowers 355p (-10p)
Swire Pacific 520½p (-10p)
Caledonia 763p (-12p)
Abbey Ntl 781½p (-12p)
Celltech 662½p (-9p)
Go-Ahead 493½p (-12p)
MAID 168½p (-7p)
Pace Micro 164p (-7½p)
Assoc Br Ports 306½p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

Lloyds shopping basket

THE BEST is yet to come from the Lloyds TSB merger, predicted Sir Brian Pitman, the chairman, who in the same breath feels that bank shares are still rated way below other retailers in spite of the recent re-rating of bank shares.

City dealers reacted by taking profits on the recent gains in Lloyds shares. They were pleased with the dividend rise but made little alteration to 1997 and 1998 forecasts.

Lloyds looks strong enough, in terms of capital, for an acquisition or special dividend some time this year. Intriguingly, acquisitions could well be in an area once so troublesome. The Problem Country Debt division has been renamed Emerging Markets Debt, *in deference to the turnaround in Latin America's fortunes and the fact that Lloyds TSB wants to* forge closer business links in South America.

In Australia and New Zealand, a region of which Sir Brian *is particularly fond*, there are still plenty of buying opportunities, and ANZ Bank may yet attract *the chairman's* acquisitive eye.

Although Sir Brian would like a retail rating he said that he goes out of his way to avoid pushing a *supermarket* trolley, "with the possible exception of Christmas time". This *was not* a chauvinistic outburst and bank watchers should take note. While his *competitors seem ever more* eager to forge alliances with supermarket chains, Sir Brian *remains wary.*

Whatever Sir Brian may believe, the good *news* at Lloyds TSB is in the price. The market *should* not bet, however, against Sir Brian pulling off another coup like Cheltenham & Gloucester or TSB.

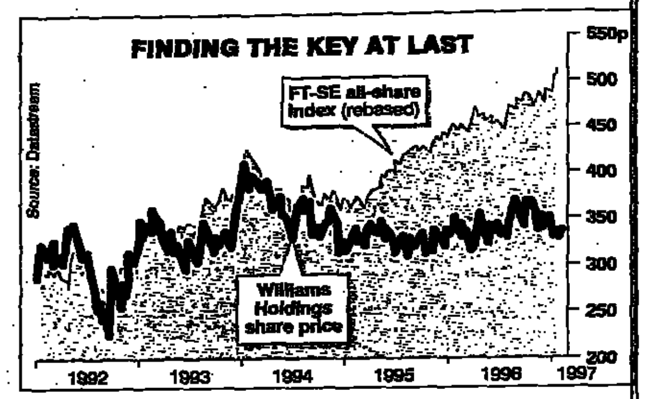
Williams

SHAREHOLDERS in Williams Holdings seemed to have few doubts that the security and home improvement company had overpaid *to lock-up* a deal with Chubb. Institutions had understood the strategy was to make small bolt-on acquisitions and not seal the kind of deal that has a dilutive impact on first-year earnings.

But the price probably *should be described as "full"* rather than too high, with Williams able to point to extentuating circumstances. This is its fifth attempt to land a major catch in as many years. After four failures — and millions of pounds in wasted fees — it needed to get it right. One of these attempts was on Racal in 1992, when it still owned Chubb.

Equally, yesterday's bid had to be pitched high enough — and it is exactly the same price as Ingersoll-Rand is paying for Newman Tonks — to scare off interna*tional rivals.*

No one doubts the industrial logic of the move. Williams gains exposure and a ready-made distribution channel in vital markets in the East. It achieves critical mass — becoming arugably the largest security company in the world — at a time *when the industry is* consolidating globally. Williams has set itself tough, but achievable targets for cost savings and profit improvement over the next three years. Success at this level will prove yesterday's bears short-sighted.



Clyde

GULF CANADA'S £500 million bid for Clyde Petroleum should at least remind investors — armchair and professional — of the hazards of valuing an oil company.

British analysts write *reams about asset* values, their North American cous*ins* wax lyrical on cashflow. It has to be said that on asset value Clyde is fully valued by Gulf's 120p-a-share bid, but on cashflow Gulf would need to bid 170p to reach the average oil sector cashflow multiple.

Another perennial hazard *lies in wait for would-be oil* analysts: the oil price. Arm*chair analysts can have some* fun here watching the professionals sweat. BP and Shell this week said that they expected the oil price to fall rather than rise in the next few months. Falling oil prices would, of course, tend to coax City investors gently into the arms of Gulf Canada and its cash bid. Gulf already has 29 per cent of Clyde and just a handful of big City fund managers control 47 per cent of the stock.

Friendly oil analysts believe that Clyde's management can add enough by way of acquisition to keep up cash generation in the future, al*though they would also con*cede that Clyde has a low cash value multiple because of a past lack of confidence in this ability.

But even those who recommend rejecting Gulf's bid would not be too surprised if Clyde succumbed at the final count on Tuesday. As anyone who has sold a house knows, *the ultimate value of an asset* is what a buyer can be *persuaded to pay. In this case* the asset is Clyde Petroleum and the value is 120p a share of Gulf's money.

Wall Street

WHAT will it take to stop Wall Street? At the end of 1995, when the Dow first broke the 5,000 barrier, experts were predicting a quiet year for 1996. It has since broken 6,000, in autumn 1996, and 7,000 earlier this week.

Talk in America that improved management of the economy by the Fed has vir*tually removed the cyclical* pattern of behaviour from the economy and markets is probably overdone. It is nevertheless a wonder to behold that better economic management can remove the troughs of recession and the disruptive boom of an out-of-control economic upswing.

Yesterday saw more figures from America showing that the economy was gently *slowing after the strong* growth of late last year.

However, New York analysts were last night saying their market was vulnerable to any bad news. At the end of last year it only took the chairman of the Federal Reserve to say the market ought to be aware of "irrational overexuberance" for a steep fall to occur. What will the Fed say next?

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	853-852	May	965-964
May	876-875	Jul	983 SLR
Jul	895-894	Sep	994-991
Sep	915-913	Dec	1010 BID
Dec	924-926		
Mar	950-949		Volume: 7336

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1655-1645	Nov	1700 SLR
May	1675-1670	Jan	unq
Jul	1700-1696	Mar	unq
Sep	1700-1695		Volume: 6934

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	300.0-98.6
Spot: 300.0		Mar	301.4-98.6
May	303.5-03.1	May	303.0-98.6
Aug	303.9-03.1	Jun	unq
Oct	294.8-96.5		Volume: 411

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 13

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	80.11	139.92	107.54
(+/-)	+0.12	-3.17	+0.05
Eng/Wales	80.15	140.88	102.70
(+/-)	+0.14	-3.12	-0.01
(%)	+23.0	-10.0	-7.0
Scotland	74.65	134.96	106.73
(+/-)	+3.24	-3.29	-0.41
(%)	n/c	+7.0	+36.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.60	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	20.50	+0.25
Brent 15 day (May)	20.20	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	21.95	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.70	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	227 (n/c)	229 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	186 (+3)	187 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	94 (+2)	96 (+2)
Naphtha	223 (-5)	226 (-6)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	178.00-78.25	Jun	177.00-77.50
Apr	177.00 BID	Jul	177.50-77.75
May	176.75-77.00		Vol: 13714

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	20.46-20.49	Jul	19.72 BID
May	20.16-20.20	Aug	19.65 SLR
Jun	19.91-19.94		Vol. 19682

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	93.30
May	96.20
Jul	98.20
Sep	91.85
Nov	93.85
Volume: 738	

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	95.00
May	93.75
Sep	91.50
Nov	93.50
Jan	95.50
Volume: 5	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	56.0
Apr	91.9	60.0
May	69.0	69.0
		Volume: 46

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 79.75-80.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 97	1530	1515	1515
Mar 97	1595	1575	1580
Apr 97	1585	1570	1575
Jul 97	1315	1315	1295
Vol: 151 lots		Open interest: 3053	

Index 1460 +10

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2366.0-2367.0	2270.0-2271.0	1276150
Lead ($/tonne)	652.00-653.00	659.00-659.50	292600
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1192.0-1193.0	1213.0-1214.0	730725
Tin ($/tonne)	5955.0-5960.0	6009.0-6011.0	16180
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1533.0-1533.5	1564.0-1565.0	2306600
Nickel ($/tonne)	7645.0-7655.0	7730.0-7740.0	62490

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Allid Dom.	420	28	33	38½	11	20½	25
(*432)	460	7½	15	21½	34½	44½	48½
ASDA	110	8½	11	12½	2½	4½	7
(*114)	120	4	6	7½	7½	9½	11½
Boots	700	25	39½	45½	17½	30½	37½
(*701½)	750	6½	17	24½	50½	62	67½
Br Airways	600	30	42	51	13½	26	31½
(*616½)	650	9	20	29	43	55½	60
BP	650	50	61	67	13	22	25½
(*687½)	700	22½	35	42	34	45	49
Br Steel	140	7	10½	11½	6	11½	13
(*139½)	160	1	4	5	20	20½	27½
C & W	500	36½	48	56½	12½	22	29
(*520½)	550	12½	24	33	37	49½	54½
CU	700	41	57½	69	23	36½	50½
(*724½)	750	16½	36	46½	52	64½	78½
ICI	750	21	35½	44½	28½	37½	47
(*756)	800	6½	18	25½	67½	72½	79
Land Sec	750	49	59	64½	5	18	22
(*786½)	800	16	28	37	24	42½	46½
M & S	460	36½	42½	50	5½	10½	13½
(*487½)	500	13	19	29	21½	29½	32½
Nat West	800	41	61	73	24½	37½	52
(*823)	850	17½	39½	50½	53½	65½	79½
Safeway plc	360	18	25½	31	12	22	29½
(*362½)	390	6½	13	19	30	41	47½
Sainsbury	300	25	30	34	6	12	14
(*318)	330	9	15	19½	19½	28	37½
Shell	1050	55½	69½	77	26½	36	46½
(*1080)	1100	29	38½	52½	54½	62	73½
Smkl Bch	850	67½	83	102	19	23½	39½
(*895½)	900	35	55	75	39½	50½	59
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1700	128½	168½	197	36	54	72
(*1797)	1800	70	113½	143	77	98	117

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	500	33	42	52	22	30	41
(*520½)	550	10	22½	28½	53½	59½	70½
Vodafone	280	19	27	34½	10	17	21
(*286½)	300	10½	17½	25	20½	27½	31½

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	35½	47	54	0	5	10
(*455)	460	3	21	29	7	19	25
Ladbroke	220	15	19½	25	0	5½	8
(*235)	240	2½	8½	14½	5	15	17½
Utd Biscs	220	12½	19	23½	1	8½	12
(*232)	240	1	9½	14½	9	20	23

February 14 1997 Tot: 47511 Calls: 24432 Put: 23079 FTSE Call: 10932 Put: 5375
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	44	54½	59½	3½	11	14½
(*539)	550	15½	24½	30½	23	32½	39½
Thames W.	650	35	49½	51	17½	36½	39
(*664)	700	12½	26	29	42½	66	68

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	240	5	13	18½	2½	13	17½
(*241)	260	0	6	11	19	27	30
Br Aero	1200	49	93	110	0½	26½	37½
(*1247)	1250	12	56	83½	12½	49	60
Br Telcm	420	15½	30	38	1	9½	20½
(*435)	460	0	10½	18½	25	30½	45
Cadbury	460	29	34	41½	0½	10	13½
(*487½)	500	3	14½	21½	14	31	34
Guinness	420	19½	29	35½	0½	12	16½
(*439)	460	0	9½	17	21½	30	41
GEC	360	23	34	39	0	9½	11½
(*382½)	390	1	16	21½	8½	17½	26
Hanson	119	16	—	—	0	—	—
(*135)	136	1½	—	—	2½	—	—
LASMO	220	16	24	31½	0	7	8½
(*235½)	240	2½	14	21	6	14½	16½
LucasVarity	200	5	15	19	2	10½	14
(*203)	220	0	6½	10½	17	21½	26½
Pilkingtn	130	5	11	14½	0½	4	7
(*134½)	140	0½	6	9½	6	9	12½
Prudential	550	26½	40½	52½	1	17	25
(*575½)	600	1	17	29	25½	45	52
Redland	330	22	34½	39	0	12½	16½
(*351½)	360	2½	18	24	10	28½	32½
R-Royce	220	5	17½	24	2	12	17
(*227½)	240	0	9	15½	16½	23½	29½
Tesco	330	14	25	30	2½	11½	15½
(*343)	360	0½	10	16½	19	29½	32
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4341)

	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450
Calls						
Feb	148½	100½	56	21½	4½	1
Mar	158½	120	85	56	34	19
Apr	181	145½	114	85½	61½	42
May	205	169½	137½	107½	84	61½
Jun	227½	—	166	—	110	—
Puts						
Feb	2	5½	11½	31	78	128
Mar	26	37½	52½	74½	103½	139½
Apr	50	64½	82½	103½	129½	161
May	68½	83	100	120	149½	174
Jun	79½	—	117	—	161½	—

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	750	44½	60½	74	19½	30½	40½
(*783½)	800	17½	36	49½	47	57	66
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1150	76	104½	118½	19½	34½	48½
(*1217)	1200	44	76½	91	39½	57	70½
Natl Pwr	500	24	36	38	18	31½	36½
(*503½)	550	7½	15½	18	49½	65	69

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1050	36	57½	71½	43½	58	66½
(*1050)	1100	17	37	51	77½	88½	99
HSBC	1550	78	130½	146	46½	73½	96½
(*1543)	1600	52	75	100	105	129	150½
Reuter	600	51	65½	73½	13½	21½	26
(*629)	650	23½	39	47½	35½	45½	49½
Royal & Sun	500	19	30	38½	29½	33	38
(*501½)	550	4½	13	20½	63½	67½	71

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Blue Circ	390	14	27	32	1	16	18
(*403)	420	0½	12	18	17½	33	34½

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfshr	650	21½	49½	51½	1½	22½	31
(*670)	700	0½	16	28½	30½	50½	57

Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas	240	13½	21½	—	5	17½	—
(*240½)	260	4½	12	—	16½	25	—

Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	28½	45½	53	5	18½	30
(*517½)	550	6½	21½	30	35	44½	53½
EMI Group	1150	68½	105	125	11	30½	44½
(*1199)	1200	38½	77½	98	30	51½	66
Tarmac	90	8	10	12½	1	4½	4½
(*96)	100	3	5½	8	5½	10	10
Hillsdwn	190	8½	12	13½	2½	9	10
(*185)	200	1	3½	5	15½	22½	23½
Lonrho	130	5	10	12	4½	7	9½
(*131)	140	1½	5½	7½	11	13½	15½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	18	27	31½	2½	7½	14
(*294)	300	6½	16	20½	10	16½	23
Lloyds TSB	500	14	30	40½	17	26½	35
(*503½)	550	2	12½	21½	57½	61	67
Scot Pwr	353	11½	—	—	7	—	—
(*356½)	360	5	20	26	10	18	25
Unilever	1450	96	110½	131	4	22	26
(*1539)	1500	56	74½	98½	13½	37	43½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	113-18	113-28	113-09	113-12	79485
Previous open interest: 204404	Jun 97	112-31	113-05	112-27	112-28	907
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 97	103.49	103.83	103.35	103.61	204722
Previous open interest: 268030	Jun 97	102.61	102.87	102.52	102.78	5971
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 97	130.68	131.25	130.22	130.94	79329
Previous open interest: 125896	Jun 97	130.05	130.40	129.80	130.27	5747
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97	126.16	126.28	126.13	126.23	2316
	Jun 97	124.73	124.81	124.69	124.79	788
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.71	93.71	93.70	93.70	9974
	Jun 97	93.49	93.50	93.47	93.48	15136
Previous open interest: 505142	Sep 97	93.30	93.32	93.29	93.29	8531
Three Mth Euromark	Feb 97	96.84	96.84	96.81	96.81	1167
Previous open interest: 1187126	Mar 97	96.89	96.89	96.84	96.86	26906
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 97	92.93	92.96	92.88	92.93	17260
Previous open interest: 285040	Jun 97	93.46	93.54	93.39	93.48	21313
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97				99.43	0
	Sep 97	99.37	99.37	99.37	99.37	242
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 97	98.34	98.34	98.30	98.30	5396
Previous open interest: 89512	Jun 97	98.37	98.38	98.32	98.33	6772
Three Mth ECU	Mar 97	95.93	95.95	95.93	95.94	384
Previous open interest: 34412	Jun 97	96.03	96.04	96.00	96.02	326
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4323.0	4355.0	4323.0	4332.0	14580
Previous open interest: 67290	Jun 97	4360.5	4365.0	4360.5	4352.5	504

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¾ Low 5 Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5²⁹⁄₃₂ : 3 mth 5⅞. Sell: 2 mth 5²⁷⁄₃₂ : 3 mth 5²⁷⁄₃₂.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	5⅞-5¾	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⅞	6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6⅛-6	
Sterling Money Rates	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⁹⁄₁₆
Interbank	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⁹⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 5⅞, close 5.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅜	6⅝
Sterling CDs	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¼	6⁹⁄₁₆-6½
Dollar CDs	5.23	n/a	5.30	5.38	5.55
Building Society CDs	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¼	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £2,547m allotted: £400m; Bids: £98.54% received: 32%: Last week: £98.535 received: 75%: Avge rate: £5.8415% last wk £5.8746%: Next week: £400m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5¾-5⅝	5-4
Deutschemark	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3¼-3	3⅜-2¾
French Franc	3¼-3	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2¾
Swiss Franc	1⅝-1½	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1⁹⁄₁₆	1¹³⁄₁₆-1⅝	1¹³⁄₁₆-1¹¹⁄₁₆	2-1
Yen	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $341.70-342.00 Close: $343.40-343.90 High: $343.40-343.90
Low: $341.40-341.90 AM: $342.50 PM: $342.40

Krugerrand: $342.75-345.75 (£211.50-213.50)

Platinum: $366.75 (£225.75) **Silver:** $5.19 (£3.195) **Palladium:** $136.25 (£84.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 14	*Range*	*Close*	*1 month*	*3 month*
Amsterdam	3.0634-3.0736	3.0660-3.0687	¾-⅝pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Brussels	56.290-56.530	56.325-56.441	15-11pr	47-40pr
Copenhagen	10.399-10.437	10.412-10.421	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0219-1.0269	1.0230-1.0249	6-1pr	16-10pr
Frankfurt	2.7285-2.7381	2.7320-2.7347	¾-⅝pr	2¼-2pr
Lisbon	274.47-275.66	274.77-275.10	½-⅛ds	½-⅛ds
Madrid	231.15-231.96	231.29-231.48	6-4pr	33-15pr
Milan	2691.0-2700.1	2693.1-2695.0	22-37ds	62-85ds
Montreal	2.1842-2.1944	2.1874-2.1895	0.55-0.50pr	1.16-1.07pr
New York	1.6182-1.6215	1.6205-1.6215	0.105-0.085pr	0.32-0.29pr
Oslo	10.836-10.861	10.839-10.849	¼-⅛pr	¾-½pr
Paris	9.2040-9.2410	9.2198-9.2271	2⅛-1¾pr	6⅛-6⅜pr
Stockholm	11.924-12.025	11.924-11.944	⅜-⅛pr	⅝-⅜pr
Tokyo	201.03-201.89	201.18-201.47	⅞-⅝pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Vienna	19.201-19.271	19.225-19.245	⅞-⅝pr	1½-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3635-2.3723	2.3642-2.3723	⅜-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3058-1.3066
Austria	11.86-11.87
Belgium (Com)	34.78-34.79
Canada	1.3491-1.3496
Denmark	6.4250-6.4270
France	5.6907-5.6917
Germany	1.6860-1.6870
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7500
Ireland	1.5835-1.5855
Italy	1660.0-1662.0
Japan	124.15-124.25
Malaysia	2.4835-2.4845
Netherlands	1.8936-1.8941
Norway	6.6906-6.6977
Portugal	169.71-169.81
Singapore	1.4177-1.4187
Spain	142.88-142.91
Sweden	1.3721-1.3796
Switzerland	1.4635-1.4645

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6200-1.6227
Australia dollar	2.1167-2.1194
Bahrain dinar	0.6040-0.6160
Brazil real*	1.6941-1.6985
China yuan	13.257-13.557
Cyprus pound	0.8095-0.8195
Finland markka	8.0250-8.1410
Greece drachma	423.25-430.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.5627-12.5721
India rupee	57.96-58.65
Indonesia rupiah	3821.0-3889.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4955
Malaysia ringgit	4.0263-4.0304
New Zealand dollar	2.3330-2.3361
Pakistan rupee	64.40 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8275-5.9515
Singapore dollar	2.2984-2.3014
S Africa rand (com)	7.1100-7.2120
U A E dirham	5.8800-6.0040

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	998	*Lloyds TSB*	18,600
ASDA Gp	10,200	LucasVarity	4,300
Abbey Ntl	1,900	Marks Spr	9,300
Allied Dom	2,900	Mercury Asset	442
Argos	334	NatWst Bk	3,700
AB Foods	2,700	Nat Grid	6,600
BAA	4,900	Nat Power	3,600
BAT Inds	3,700	Next	948
BOC	1,800	Orange	5,500
BP	23,100	P & O	1,100
BSkyB	1,600	Pearson	3,300
BTR	9,800	PowerGen	2,400
BT	8,600	Prudential	4,900
Bk of Scot	2,700	RMC	839
Barclays	5,500	RTZ	2,900
Bass	955	Railtrack	2,900
Blue Circle	2,300	Rank Group	6,400
Boots	3,600	Reckitt Col	345
BAe	2,200	Redland	2,700
BA	3,900	Reed Intl	2,600
Brit Gas	21,800	Rentokil Inl	4,800
Brit Steel	5,200	Reuters	14,500
Burmah Csl	855	Rolls Royce	7,800
Burton	6,700	Royal & Sun	3,000
Cable Wire	6,800	Royal Bk Sct	8,800
Cadbury	1,600	Safeway	4,200
Carlton Cms	3,600	Sainsbury	5,900
Cm Union	1,700	Schroders	147
Dixons	4,200	Scot & New	347
EMI	1,900	Scot Power	1,600
Enterpr Oil	567	Svrn Trent	4,200
GKN	1,200	Shell Trans	20,000
GRE	2,000	Siebe	2,100
GUS	1,700	SmKl Bch	4,900
Gen Acc	868	Smith Nph	18,200
Gen Elec	3,100	Smiths Inds	1,700
Glaxo Well	4,800	Std Chartd	812
Granada	2,600	TI Gp	1,100
Grand Met	6,700	Tate & Lyle	854
Guinness	3,300	Tesco	5,200
HSBC	2,300	Thames W	972
Hanson	22,900	*Tomkins*	3,200
Hays	965	Unilever	3,100
ICI	1,700	Utd Utilities	3,200
Imp Tob	2,000	Utd News	628
Kingfisher	2,800	Vodafone	7,200
LASMO	1,200	Whitbread	746
Ladbroke	3,500	Wllms Hld	23,000
Land Secs	430	Wolseley	635
Legal & Gn	1,600	Zeneca	1,200

WALL STREET

	Feb 14 midday	Feb 13 close
AMP Inc	39½	41
AMR Corp	82½	83½
ASA	35½	35½
AT & T	39½	39½
Abbott Labs	58½	58½
Advanced Micro	34½	34½
Aetna Life	87½	86
Ahmanson (HF)	39½	40½
Air Prod & Chem	75½	76½
AirTouch Comm	27½	28
Alberto-Culver B	55½	55½
Albertson's	35½	35½
Alcan Aluminium	35	34½
Allied Signal	73½	72½
Alum Co of Am	69½	67½
Amax Gold Inc	6½	6½
Amerada Hess	57½	58
Amer Brands	53½	53½
Amer El Power	41½	41½
Amer Express	68½	68½
Amer Genl Corp	42½	41½
Amer Home Pr	65½	66½
Amer Intl	128½	128½
Amer Stores	44½	44½
Amer Standard	45	45½
Ameritech	63½	63½
Amoco	87½	87½
Anheuser-Busch	44½	44½
Apple Computer	16	16½
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	68½	68½
Asarco	29½	29½
Atl Richfield	130½	130½
Auto Data Pro	43½	43
Avery Dennison	40½	40½
Avon Products	62½	62½
Baker Hughes	37½	37½
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27½
Banc One	45½	45½
BankAmerica	120½	123
Bank of NY	41½	40½
Bankers Tr NY	92½	92½
Barnett Banks	49½	48½
Bausch & Lomb	37½	37½
Baxter Intl	47½	48
Becton Dickinsn	50	50
Bell Atlantic	71	71
Bell Industries	23½	22½
BellSouth	47½	46½
Black & Decker	33½	33½
Block (H&R)	30½	30½
Boeing	109	109½
Boise Cascade	34½	34½
Bristol Myrs Sq	134½	134½
Browning Ferris	30½	30½
Brunswick	28½	27½
Burlington Nthn	86	84½
CMS Energy Corp	33½	33½
CNA Financial	108½	108½
CPC Intl	79	79½
CSX	46	45½
Campbell Soup	86½	86½
Can Pacific	26	26½
Carolina Pwr	37½	37½
Caterpillar	82½	83½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	43½	42½
Chase Manhtn	102½	101½
Chevron Corp	68½	68½
Chrysler	34½	34
Chubb Corp	58½	58½
Cigna Corp	161	159½
Citicorp	124½	123½
Clorox	122½	122½
Coastal Corp	48½	48½
Coca Cola	60½	61
Coca Cola Ent	58½	58½
Colgate-Palm	105½	107½
Columbia Gas	62½	63½
ColumbiaHCA	43½	43½
Compaq Comp	83½	84½
Comp Ass Intl	47½	48½
Conagra	53½	53
Conrail	105½	105½
Cons Edison	30½	31½
Cons Nat Gas	54½	54
Cooper Inds	45	45½
Corestates	53	52½
Corning Inc	37	37½
Crown Cork	58½	59½
Dana Corp	31½	31½
Dayton Hudson	39½	39½
Deere	42½	43½
Delta Air Lines	85½	86½
Deluxe Corp	31½	31½
Digital Equip	34½	35½
Dillard Dept St	29½	29½
Disney (Walt)	77½	77½
Dominion Res	40½	40½
Donelley (RR)	30½	31½
Dover Corp	51	51½
Dow Chemical	80½	80½
Dow Jones	41½	41½
Dresser	32½	32½
Duke Power	45½	46½
Dun & Bradstreet	25	25
Du Pont	110½	112½
Eastman Chem	56½	56½
Eastman Kodak	91½	91½

	Feb 14 midday	Feb 13 close
Eaton Corp	73½	74½
Edison Intl	22½	22½
Elect Data Sys	47½	46½
Emerson Elec	103½	103½
Engelhard Corp	23½	22½
Enron Corp	42½	42½
Entergy	26½	27½
Ethyl Corp	9½	9½
Exxon	104	104
FMC Corp	70½	70½
FPL Group	45½	45½
Federal Express	52½	52½
First Bk Sys	81½	81
First Union Rlty	13½	13½
Fleet Finl Grp	59½	59½
Fluor Corp	73½	73½
Ford Motor	33	32½
GTE Corp	49	48½
Gannett	82	82½
Gap Inc Del	33½	33½
Gencorp	19½	19½
Gen Dynamics	70½	70½
Gen Electric	106½	107½
Gen Mills	67½	67½
Gen Motors	59½	59½
Gen Reinsurance	173½	173
Gen Signal	45½	45½
Genuine Parts	45½	46
Georgia Pac	76½	76½
Gillette	83½	83½
Glaxo Welle ADR	34	33½
Goodrich (BF)	42½	42½
Goodyear Tire	54½	54
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31½	31½
Great West Fin	34½	35½
Halliburton	70½	70½
Harcourt General	48	48½
Heinz (HJ)	41½	41½
Hercules	47½	47½
Hershey Foods	44½	44½
Hewlett Packard	49½	50½
Hilton Hotels	27½	27½
Home Depot	52	52
Homestake Mng	15½	14½
Honeywell	75½	75½
Household Intl	105½	105½
Houston Inds	22½	22½
Humana	20½	19½
ITT Corp	57½	58½
Ikon Office	44½	44½
Illinois Tool	85½	85½
Illinova	25½	25½
INCO	35	35½
Ingersoll Rand	48½	48½
Inland Steel	18½	18½
Intel Corp	154½	157
IBM	146½	146½
Intl Flav & Fr	46½	46½
Intl Paper	42½	42½
James River Va	31½	31½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	61½	61½
Kellogg	71	71½
Kerr-McGee	66½	66½
Kimberly-Clark	102½	102½
Kmart	10½	10½
Knight-Ridder	40	39½
Lilly (Eli)	93½	92½
Limited Inc	17½	17½
Lincoln Nat	58½	58½
Litton	44	43½
Liz Claiborne	43½	42½
Lockheed Martin	90½	91½
Louisiana Pac	20½	20½
MCI Comm	36½	36½
Manpower Inc	35½	35½
Marriott Intl	54½	54½
Marsh & McLnn	122	118½
Masco Corp	35½	35½
May Dept St	47	47
Maytag Corp	21½	21½
McDonalds	46½	46½
McDonnell D	68	68½
McGraw Hill	51½	51½
Mead Corp	58½	58½
Medtronic	71½	71
Mellon Bk	81½	81½
Merck Inc	98	99½
Merrill Lynch	98½	96½
Microsoft	99½	103
Minnesota Mine	85½	86½
Mobil Corp	131½	131½
Monsanto	38½	37½
Morgan (JP)	109½	108½
Motorola Inc	64½	63½
Natl Semi	25	25
Natl Service Ind	38½	39
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	43½	42½
Newmont Mng	41½	40½
Niag Mohawk	10½	10½
Nike B	74½	76
NL Industries	11½	11½
Noram Energy	15	15½
Nordstrom	37½	37½
Norfolk Sthrn	88½	88
Nthn State Pwr	47½	47½
Norwest Corp	51½	51½
Nynex Corp	53½	53
Occidental Pet	26½	26
Ohio Edison	22½	22½

	Feb 14 midday	Feb 13 close
Oracle	41½	41½
Oryx Energy Co	21½	21½
Overseas Ship	18½	18½
Owens Corning	45½	45½
PHH Corp	47½	48½
PPG Industries	54½	54½
PNC Bank	43½	43½
PP&L Res	23½	23
Paccar Inc	70½	71½
Pacificorp	20½	21½
Pac Enterprises	30½	30½
Pac Telesis	40½	41
Pall Corp	23½	23½
Parker Hannifin	44½	44
Peco Energy	23½	23½
Penney (JC)	49½	49½
Pennzoil	61½	60½
Pepsico	32½	31½
Pfizer	95½	96
Pharm & Upjhn	37½	37½
Phelps Dodge	70½	71½
Philip Morris	128½	125½
Phillips Pet	44	44½
Pitney Bowes	60½	60½
Polaroid	44½	44½
Procter & Gmbl	125½	122
Providian	55½	55½
Pub Serv E & G	27½	27½
Quaker Oats	35	35½
Ralston Purina	82	82½
Raychem Corp	87½	88½
Raytheon	46½	46½
Reebok Intl	49½	50
Reynolds Metals	62½	62
Rockwell Intl	67½	67½
Rohm & Haas	88½	89½
Royal Dutch	179½	183
Rubbermaid	25	24½
SBC Comms	57½	57½
Safeco Corp	41½	41½
St Paul's Cos	70½	70½
Salomon Inc	59½	59½
Sara Lee Corp	39½	39
Schering Plough	79½	79½
Schlumberger	106½	107
Seagram	41½	41½
Sears Roebuck	53½	53½
Shell Trans	108½	108½
Sherwin Wlms	57½	57½
Skyline Corp	27½	27½
Snap-On-Tools	40½	[illegible]
Southern Co	22½	[illegible]
Sprint Corp	43½	[illegible]
Stanley Works	37½	37½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	34½	35
Suntrust	54	54½
Supervalu	31½	31½
Sysco Corp	34½	34½
TRW Inc	52½	52½
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	13½	13½
Tandy Corp	47½	47½
Temple Inland	59½	56½
Tenneco	40	40½
Texaco	102½	102½
Texas Inst	80½	80½
Texas Utilities	40½	41
Textron	102½	101½
Time Warner	42½	42½
Times-Mirror A	50½	50½
Timken	52½	52½
Torchmark	55½	54½
Toys R Us	24½	24½
Transamerica	89½	85½
Travelers	56½	56½
Tribune	41½	41
Tyco Intl	58½	59
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	61½	61½
US Inds	34½	34½
US West Comm	34½	34½
US West Media	20½	20½
USX Marathon	28½	27½
Unicom	23½	23½
Unilever NV	185	189
Union Camp	49½	49½
Union Carbide	46½	46½
Union Pacific	59½	59½
Unisys Corp	6½	7
USAIR Group	21½	21½
USF&G Corp	22½	22½
US Life	47½	47
United Tech	76½	76½
Unocal Corp	42½	43½
VF Corp	70	69½
WMX Tech	33	32½
Wal-Mart Stores	24½	24½
Warner-Lambert	80	[illegible]
Wells Fargo	317	[illegible]
Westinghouse El	18	18½
Weyerhaeuser	47½	47½
Whirlpool	51½	51½
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	31½	31½
Woolworth	19½	19½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	59½	59½
Xerox	56½	56½
Yellow Corp	16½	16½

JAPAN MALAISE 34

Smiling through in the land of the Rising Sun

WEEKEND MONEY

INVESTOR ACTION 38

Pru ahead in bidding war for ScotAm

[illegible] PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Anger lingers as pension rules change

Adam Jones meets a former helicopter pilot still feeling the effects of the Maxwell scandal

It happened five years ago, almost to the day. Anthony Pearman discovered that the pension fund to which he had been a studious contributor had shut down suddenly. Robert Maxwell had stolen its assets.

Like thousands of other workers and pensioners dependent on companies wholly owned or controlled by Maxwell, Mr Pearman faced near ruin. Now, within a matter of weeks, tough new rules and onerous responsibilities for pension fund trustees are being introduced in an attempt to ensure that another Maxwell scandal will not happen. From April 6, the Pensions Act 1995 comes into force and carries draconian penalties for trustees who preside over a fund where something goes wrong. In the worst-case scenario, those who fail to spot a pensions fraud could face imprisonment.

Mr Pearman, expecting a comfortable retirement as befitted a senior helicopter pilot with the rank of captain, and his wife, Gill, faced the prospect of having to survive on a mere £69 a week from the state. That threat eventually receded when investigators retrieved the bulk of the missing £440 million in March 1995.

Maxwell victims could expect their companies to pay full pension in retirement, after years of depending on a government "drip feed" fund for temporary support. But Mr Pearman is still getting an estimated 19 per cent less than the pension he would have received if the Maxwell fraud had never happened.

Mr Pearman joined British Airways Helicopters in 1974, flying helicopters on North Sea routes. He joined the pension scheme. In September 1986 the company was sold by the Government to Robert Maxwell, who renamed it British International Helicopters (BIH). Unions, wary of his reputation, immediately feared for the safety of the £9 million pension fund when it was transferred to the Mirror Group scheme. They drew up legal warranties to protect against proprietorial interference. These proved to be useless. Its assets disappeared, presumably in attempts to prop up the ailing Maxwell empire. BIH workers could no longer contribute to the Mirror scheme, becoming "deferred pensioners", and were moved into a new BIH pension scheme.

For Mr Pearman the timing could hardly have been worse. Pilots generally retire at 55, and Mr Pearman was due to retire 14 weeks after the closure of the fund. This freak of timing dramatically reduced the value of his pension. It was due to be calculated using the salary paid in the 1991-92 financial year. However, the sudden closure meant lower 1990-91 figures were used. Mr Pearman, 59, calculates that this will have cost him £100,000 by the time he reaches 75. So who is to blame?

The Mirror Pension Trustees were within the law to use the smaller salary figure. Iain Urquhart, scheme spokesman, said: "All of the BIH members have got benefits in accordance with the scheme."

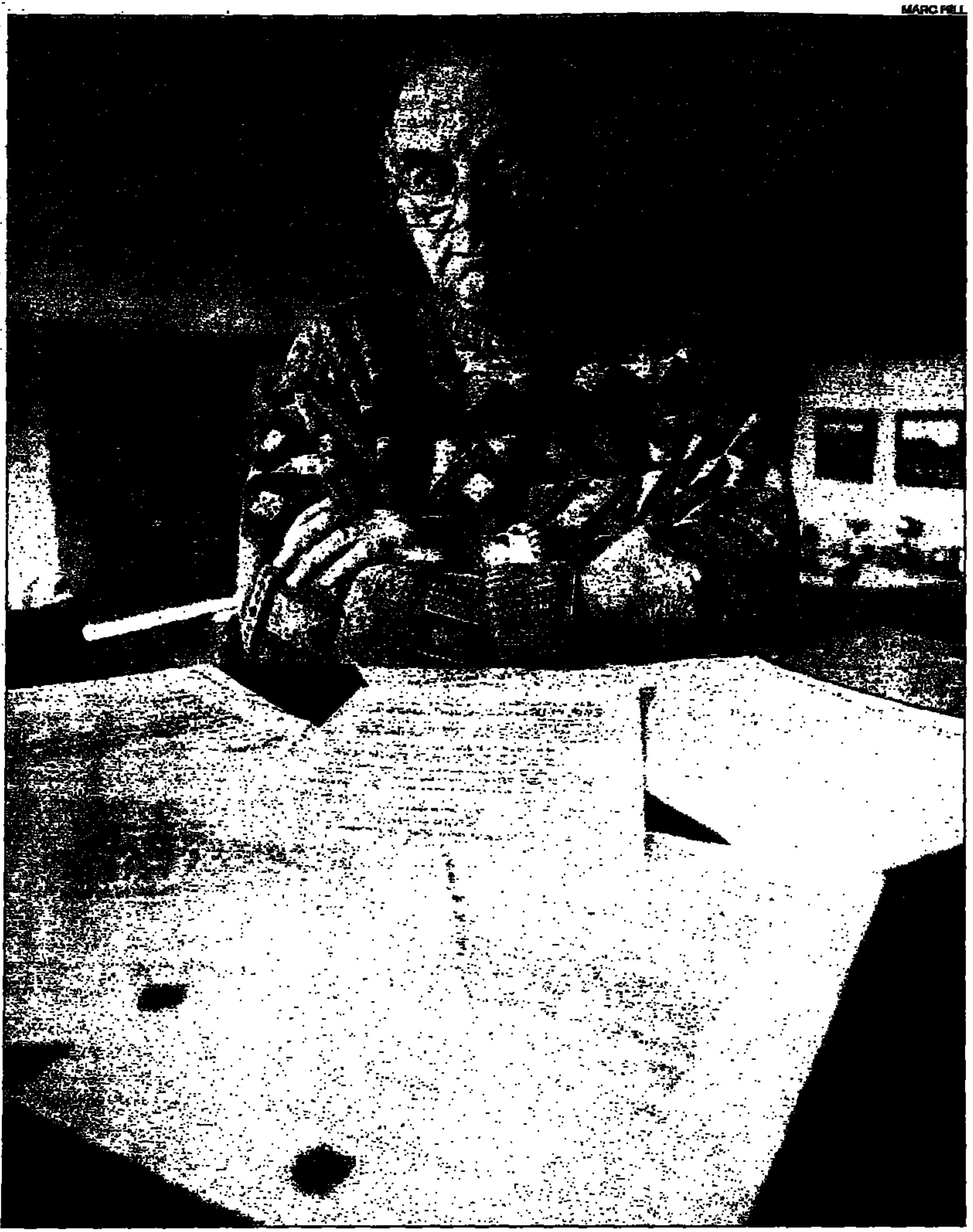
It is true that tough decisions had to be made in 1992. But it is also true that the trustees had discretion to be more flexible in the way pensions were calculated. The scheme rules stated: "In certain circumstances, final earnings are calculated in a different way [to the actual final salary]." At the time, Chris Jones, personnel manager of BIH, wrote to Mirror trustees on this point. He called for "the more equitable" calculation of final earnings. He said: "Surely in the case of wholesale misappropriation such methods that will give our members the closest possible pension to the one they expected to receive under normal circumstances is not unreasonable."

Mr Pearman is unhappy with the way the matter has been handled. The company initially allowed him to continue working past his retirement date when his pension was in doubt. But when the Government's "drip feed" fund stepped in to temporarily meet the cost, BIH terminated his employment, even though there was an agreement to extend his retirement age to 60. He also had to enlist the help of his MP to get reports on the new BIH fund in which he had a small amount. He says information was still not passed on.

BIH, which is now owned by a Canadian company, refused to comment on Mr Pearman's situation. Other sources of redress have been closed off. The Maxwell Pensioners Trust, the drip-feed fund, was wound up two weeks ago. Jane Newell, chairman, said the trust was very sympathetic to his position, but it had decided to pay only what was ordained by the scheme trustees.

Mr Pearman said: "For myself and my wife, who have retired, our time is up. There is no chance for us to recover. We should receive the pension we have paid for, no more and no less. It is wrong that any individual Maxwell pensioner should be left to carry such a loss. The damage done to my family is irreparable."

MARC PILL



Anthony Pearman, who has a reduced pension, says the Maxwell affair caused his family irreparable damage

☐ **November 5, 1991.** Robert Maxwell is found dead, presumed drowned, off the coast of Gran Canaria.

☐ **December 5, 1991.** Trading in Mirror Group shares is suspended as it emerges that Robert Maxwell siphoned off an estimated £300 million from the Mirror Group Newspapers pensions scheme and five other Maxwell company pension funds. The revelations prompt an SFO inquiry.

☐ **February 20, 1992.** The investigators tracking down the funds reveal they have traced £237 million of assets. But they place the total missing at £727 million.

☐ **March 9, 1992.** Commons Social Security Committee recommends widespread changes to pension regulations.

☐ **June 8, 1992.** Payments for the 14,110 people already drawing Maxwell pensions begin to dry up. The Government pledges £2.5 million of stop-gap compensation.

☐ **June 13, 1992.** The Maxwell Pensioners' Trust is established to put pressure on City institutions to repay some of the money they received as security for Maxwell's loans.

☐ **June 23, 1992.** NatWest Bank returns £25 million worth of Teva shares to the Maxwell pension funds.

☐ **January 4, 1994.** The security of Mirror pensions is boosted by a £25 million pretrial settlement from the Bank of America, followed by £27 million from Lehman Brothers and £32 million from Capel Cure Myers, Lehman Brothers and Invesco MIM.

☐ **February 11, 1995.** A £276 million "global settlement" is negotiated with a number of City firms. The payoff is enough to guarantee all Maxwell pensions.

Mortgage shake-up forecast

CASHBACK offers of up to £9,000 for first-time buyers and very low initial mortgage rates could disappear this summer, a building society expert predicts (Marianne Curphey writes).

Instead of big upfront payments, mutual societies will try to introduce a blanket lower rate for all borrowers. Meanwhile, converting societies such as the Halifax and Woolwich will have to balance the demands of customers with those of the shareholders.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst with UBS, the merchant bank, believes the summer will be a turning point for mortgage providers.

"Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock will be mindful of being careful with shareholders' money, while there is evidence that mutual societies are uncomfortable with the idea of giving amazing offers to new customers at the expense of their loyal borrowers," he said.

Evidence that the trend is already happening came two days ago when the Britannia Building Society said it had chased first-time buyers aggressively last year but had no plans for special discounts for new buyers at present.

Britannia has incurred £45 million of costs in offering discounted first-time mortgages last year. At one point it had 30 per cent market share. The society, which has underlined its commitment to mutuality by setting up a loyalty bonus scheme, intends to pay £35 million to one million members, making it the first mutual to share out annual profits. The scheme is structured to exclude 300,000 "carpetbaggers" who joined the society in the hope of enjoying a windfall bonus if it decided to convert.

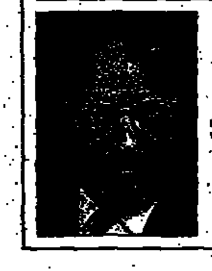
Members get an average taxable sum of £35, with a maximum set at £500. The cash will be paid later this month and is calculated on the amount of 22p units that members have accumulated by borrowing

Continued on page 32

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Mind that election wobble

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Each trading day, in a textbook world, the FT-SE 100 share index might gain about 1.5 points. In the real world, as fingernail-chewing investors know, daily oscillations are often big enough to obscure any trend. On Wednesday, a surprisingly rare event occurred. The net move on the day was exactly 0.00. Was this a pivotal moment, a pause for breath or merely the calm before the doldrums?

The blue-chip index has gained 6 per cent already this year. Yet sterling's strength has already persuaded fund managers to cut their forecasts of 1997 profit growth to 9.3 per cent. UK shares are not madly overvalued in relation to other securities. They trade at an average 16 times earnings and yield more than 3.5 per cent. In America, where the Dow Jones average ventured blinking into the 7,000s this week, industrial shares sell at 24 times earnings; yields are below 2 per cent.

There is no such bubble in Britain, but enough air in the market for investors to look anxiously for impending shocks. These could come from a change in sentiment on Wall Street, a clash among foreign interest rates or any loss of confidence in the timetable or candidates for European monetary union.

The most tangible wobble factor is at home. Within three months, there will be an election. More than 90 per cent of big investors have expected Labour to form the next government since Merrill Lynch has asked the question in its monthly survey. Markets do not yet seem to heed what this assumption implies. Perhaps it all seems predictable. Perhaps Labour's adoption of financial orthodoxy and its patently middle-class aversion to the radical has charmed away all City worries, in which case a Labour win might boost asset prices by ending uncertainty.

A formerly left-of-centre party, out of power for 18 years, would surely have its sound-money and fiscal policies tested more rigorously by the markets than familiar faces. Pressures would be high on Gordon Brown to follow the Bank of England's advice on interest rates to the letter (until he managed to downgrade it), suggesting that autumn base rates could be half a point higher under Labour than under the Tories.

Mr Brown would also be under pressure to shrink the Budget gap more surely. That would need higher taxes even if he stuck to rosy Tory spending projections, because he would forgo some of the Tories' projected revenue. The markets might therefore regret Mr Brown's insistence that he will deliver an early Budget, made virtually inevitable by the first 100 days complex.

Known losers would be utilities, hitting the vast majority of private investors. Labour's approach to cutting people's need for means-tested welfare benefits depends on a utility levy to fund an up-front float for schemes to get the young unemployed, long-term jobless and single mothers into work. Whoever that levy covered and however it were apportioned, the prospective total bill is growing. The scheme for the young alone will cost "at least" £3 billion. That means more. Yet utility shares seem unconcerned. In the months before the 1992 election, for instance, water stocks lagged well behind the average. This time, they are slightly ahead.

The corporate sector would be a likely target for regular general tax increases too. Corporation tax rates could go up. A perverse coalition has been built to stop pension funds receiving dividends tax free. This would not directly affect the value of shares to private investors, but the impact on pension fund calculations could easily knock share prices by 5 to 10 per cent in the short term, depending as much on the emotions as on numbers.

Nor should individual shareholders expect to be immune. For instance, axeing the annual capital gains tax allowance along with mortgage interest relief might be politically handy, inviting non-PEP investors to realise gains ahead of Mr Brown's Budget. The overall impact of Labour could be a nasty shock. It would certainly not be 0.00.

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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Caroline Merrell finds overwhelming member support for conversion

ROBIN MAYES

John Stewart said the board had felt it was in the best interests of members if the Woolwich kept its independence and did not form an alliance

We're with the Woolwich float

The Woolwich Building Society is on course to float by July 7, after *this week's overwhelming* vote in favour of the conversion.

Seventy per cent of investing members *who were entitled to vote did so*, and, of these, 95 per cent backed the proposals. The figure was the same for *borrowing members. The society is* expected to have a market capitalisation of £3 billion. The 2.57 *million qualifying members* will get payouts worth on average £1,200. Those who qualify for the basic *distribution* will get 450 *shares*, which will be priced between 175p and 200p.

As well as the basic distribution of *shares, many members will qualify for* an additional distribution of shares. Anyone who had more than £1,000 on *December 31, 1995, and on February 11*, 1997, will benefit from extra shares. The additional variable distribution will com*prise four free shares for each addition*al £100 saved to a maximum of £50,000. The maximum number of *shares a member can get is 2,000.*

The special general meeting held to discuss the flotation was attended by *around 1,300 members. Some mem*bers wanted to know what the Woolwich planned to do after conversion, *while others accused the board of* wanting to line their own pockets. Michael Hardern, in charge of an *action group* called *Members for* Conversion, said the share distribution was unfair. He said: "A flat distribu*tion would* have been better for the majority of members."

John Stewart, chief executive, gave a *detailed account at the meeting* of why the society had chosen to convert rather than form an alliance with another *mutual or non-mutual organisation.* He said that the board had felt that it was in the best interests of members if the Woolwich kept its independence.

Mr Stewart also talked about the draft Building Societies Bill. The Woolwich *is* concerned about clauses in the Bill over the five-year protection from takeover enjoyed by societies post-conversion. The Bill says that societies that embark on the acquisition trail after they have floated will forfeit their protection. The Bill also makes it possible for a shareholder with a 15 per cent stake to launch a full bid within the five-year period. Mr Stewart said the society was continuing to negotiate on the Bill, but added: "We are not likely to abandon conversion even if the Bill goes ahead."

Mr Stewart had little comfort for disabled savers, many of whom have been locked out of the payout because they have trustees looking after their affairs and are, therefore, not the first named on the account.

Home loan changes

Continued from page 31

and saving with the society. Calum MacLeod, the chairman, said the bonus was equivalent to the dividend shareholders could expect from demutualised building societies in the future.

However, the payment dented Britannia's headline profit figures, so, although profits have risen in real terms, the bonuses and associated costs reduced operating profits to £72.8 million, down from £118.8 million in 1995.

Mr Thomas said: "Mutual building societies have long felt uncomfortable with the idea of two different borrowing rates and special treatment for new members. They will be much happier scrapping the headline offers and giving back some of their surplus in the form of borrowing rates below those of the converting societies.

"Meanwhile, the converting societies will not be able to be so generous because they will also be looking to please their shareholders."

Woolwich members have already voted in favour of conversion, while Halifax members are expected *to do so* at the Sheffield Arena a week on Monday. A large number *of Halifax members* have already returned voting forms in favour, and the closing date for postal votes is Monday. The society stressed that it needed all members to vote. Halifax will begin mailing its eight million qualifying members next month with details of its share dealing service. An estimated 10 to 20 per cent of members are expected to opt to sell their shares, worth an average £1,300, on the first day of trading. According to the transfer document sent to qualifying members, shares will be priced at between 390p and 450p. Mr Thomas believes the shares could be worth more if the housing market continues to be buoyant. *He said:* "Essentially, buying shares in any of the converting societies is a play on the *mortgage market, par*ticularly if you hold Northern Rock shares because it is almost purely devoted to providing mortgages.

"If, as UBS predicts, net lending in the UK increases 20 per cent to £22 billion, and house prices rise 10 per cent nationally and 15 per cent in London by the end of the year, it will be good news for these shares."

Huge demand is expected from institutions for Halifax shares, since it is the biggest mortgage provider in the UK.

Other building societies with share dealing services are looking forward to benefiting from the demand for services on the first day of trading. Mr Thomas said: "Estimates are that there will be turnover of £1 billion in Halifax shares on the first day. That is equivalent to a normal day of trading on the London Stock Exchange."

Societies will not be able to be so generous

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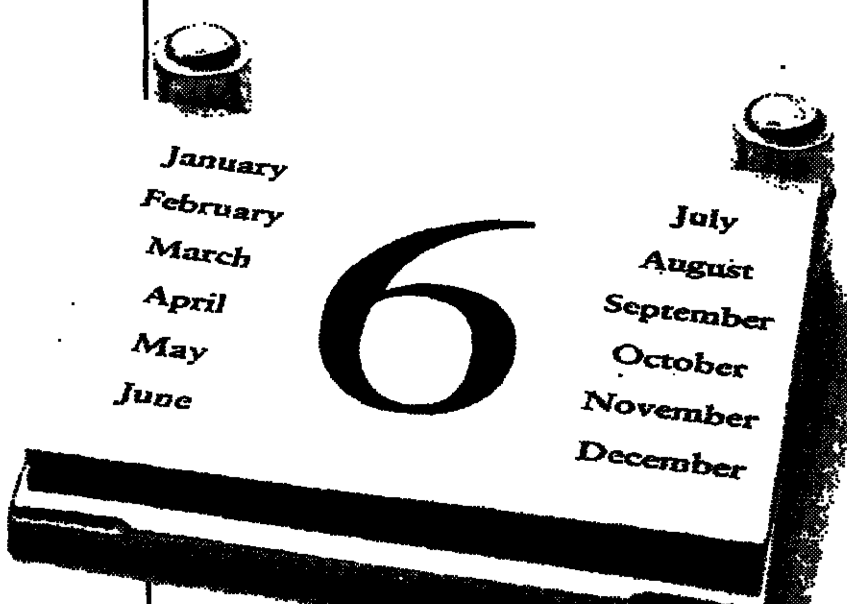

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M&G's performance in black and white

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, is showing off his new svelte form in a TV "name awareness" campaign for M&G personal equity plans (Peps).

Faultlessly lit, in sombre tones the advertisement suggests menace. This is purely a stylistic device, a Nineties advertising cliché, designed to seize the attention rather than send a shiver down the spine. But viewers should take the feeling seriously. There may be a much better home for your money than the new M&G High Income Pep, launched to entice those anxious to put money in a Pep before the end of the tax year.

The words Money and Growth may appear on the black and white TV set featured in the commercial. But M&G stands not for these sterling virtues but for the less snappy Municipal and General.

The oldest of the unit trust groups, M&G manages £2.7 billion in Pep funds and has an awesome 477,000 Pep accounts. But anyone thinking that the group's age and size guarantees quality would be wrong. Once the star of the unit trust sector, M&G is now rated an also-ran.

BESt Investment, which analyses the Pep market, sees "no reason to recommend M&G funds" and has even placed five of the group's Peps on its Spot the Dog list of plans that should be abandoned. Holders of the Equity Income, Midland & General and Smaller Companies Peps are probably now wishing that they had never become aware of the M&G name.

Although one might think that M&G would be concentrating its efforts on improving the fortunes of its existing plans, it is busy promoting its new High Income Pep. Reservations have already been expressed about this fund, but the M&G marketing machine will, as usual, relentlessly accentuate the positive. This is one area where performance has yet to falter.

Mutual dislike

AS THE nation prepares for the Great Halifax Vote, those building societies who love mutuality are jostling for their share of the limelight. They aspire to assure us that life will be sweet if you give your heart to a mutual. To date their efforts are not entirely convincing.

For example, there is now talk that these societies will abandon cut-price mortgage offers for new customers in the summer and allow all borrowers to enjoy lower rates instead (see page 31). This sounds generous. But the move would be as advantageous for the societies who resent having to offer expensive enducements to prospective borrowers. Reduced rates for all customers would be a much cheaper option.

The Britannia, which has been foremost in proclaiming its attachment to mutuality, has this week announced the payouts under its dividend package (page 39). Three quarters of the one million eligible customers received less than £50. To register for this small reward, these savers completed forms supplying invaluable information about themselves and their finances to the society.

Meanwhile, the Birmingham Midshires, another mutual devotee, will next month be introducing charges to some customers with balances under £500.

The imposition of charges on small investments is more the action of a big bank than an organisation supposedly committed to old-fashioned virtues.

When the credit card won't do nicely

Jason Nissé ran up against the limit when he used his plastic

Easy come, easy go, but not if the credit card company sets a limit that is based on out-of-date salary figures

Remember the 1980s when credit card companies were being criticised for giving out too much credit? Students would turn up at university and were handed a Barclaycard application form as soon as they picked up their grant cheques. Single parents on the dole were given thousands of pounds to spend on consumer durables that they could not afford.

I never thought I would be nostalgic for those days. But American Express has made me.

All I wanted was to increase the limit on by credit card. I like the AmEx credit card. It gave me free membership for a year. I get lots of free offers and Expressions points, which I can turn into Virgin Freeway air miles.

But for some crazy reason, when I joined I only received a credit limit of £1,000. I did not think it was a problem for six months or so, until I was buying a sofa and handed my card over for it to be returned as not having enough juice. I immediately called AmEx and said: "How about doubling my limit then?"

"Sorry, no can do," came the answer. "You have to have the card a year before you can have your credit limit increased."

"Oh," I said, and whipped out my Visa card instead.

All was well until just before Christmas, when I decided that I might like to go to Australia and would probably like to pay for the ticket with AmEx.

So I called up. "Hello. It's me again. I'd like to increase my credit limit."

"No can do," I was told again. "You've spent too much. If you are nudging your old credit limit we cannot increase it."

"But when you are nudging your old limit is just when you want to increase it," I replied.

"Rules is rules," came the reply.

So I paid off my balance and called back. "Hiya. It's your old friend with a strangely familiar request. I'd like my credit limit increased."

"Er ... sorry. No can do. According to our records, you only earn £10,000 and we can't give a credit limit on more than a tenth of your salary."

"£10,000?" I said. "That was my salary in 1986. I earn lots more than that."

"Oh," AmEx said. "It must be a mistake. I'll check our records and if it's wrong on the computer I'll amend it and up your limit. If not, I'll need you to fax me your last three pay slips to confirm your current salary."

"So you'll phone me if you need that fax?"

"Yes."

"Fine."

And I heared nothing for a week or so. So I reckoned my credit limit had been increased. Then I decided to book my plane ticket.

"No can do," the agent told me. "American Express won't authorise your payment."

So I called AmEx. "What's wrong?" I asked.

"You've gone over your credit limit," came the reply.

"But it's £2,000," I replied.

"No it's not. It's still only a thousand."

So I got on to the supervisor and she said: "Well, we called you to say we needed that fax, but no one was in."

"Why did you not leave a message on the answering machine."

"Er ... dunno."

Well, I was little perturbed by this. And the kind woman said she would immediately increase the limit to £1,500 so I could buy the ticket and would up it to £2,000 when I sent her the fax.

So I sent her the fax.

Then I received another call a few days later.

"Hello. This is American Express. It seems you have exceeded your credit limit."

"I can't have. My limit is £2,000."

"No. According to our records, it's only £1,500," came the insistent reply.

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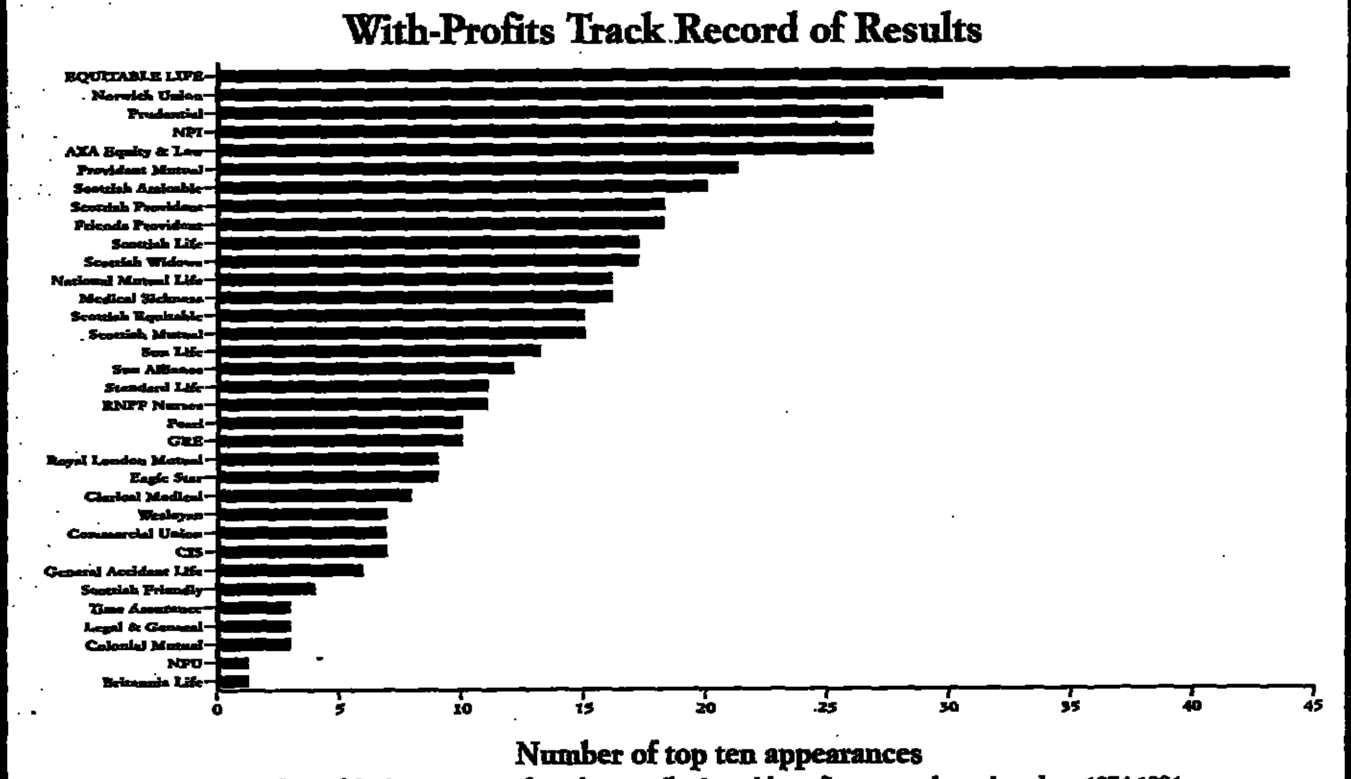

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans 1974-1996

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Gavin Lumsden looks at the prospects for the Japanese stock market

Downhearted in land of the Rising Sun

TRUST WATCH

Investors in Japan funds may well be feeling downhearted as they scan performance tables to see how their money is faring.

Not one of the 85 unit trusts or 11 investment trusts listed by Micropal as investing solely in Japan has returned a profit to investors over the past two years.

The reasons for this comprehensive failure are a Japanese *economy firmly in the doldrums* and an exchange rate that has decimated the meagre returns for sterling investors. Since April, the yen has fallen in value from 130 to the pound to more than 200.

While stock markets in the UK, the US and Europe have all risen this year, Japan's has fallen 6 per cent, and there are few signs of recovery.

The centre of the gloom is Japan's debt-ridden banking sector, which has been struggling for seven years to recover from its disastrous investments in property in the Eighties. Last week Nikkon Credit Bank was forced into the unprecedented step of holding a press conference to say that it was still liquid. At least three other lenders are in similar trouble. Banks, which make up a fifth of the Topix stock market index, have slid more than 10 per cent this year and are still overvalued.

The rest of the market has been depressed by forecasts of economic growth slowing to below 2 per cent this year, compared with 3.5 per cent last year. One reason for this is the Government's decision to reduce its 7 per cent budget deficit by cutting back on the huge public works programme with which it has sought to buoy the economy in the Nineties.

To make matters worse, *Japan seems to be heading for* its first consumer recession. Consumers are unhappy as the Government has put up VAT and repealed tax breaks that it introduced only two years ago. Extremely *low* interest rates mean that savers are getting a raw deal. As a result, manufacturers are finding it hard to sell their goods.

Tokyo's Chinatown residents shrug off investment worries

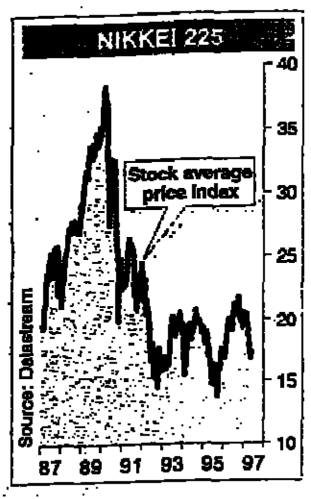
The only bright spot has been that Japan's exporters have profited from the depreciating yen, which has made their products cheaper overseas, particularly in the US.

Nevertheless, fund managers are reducing their exposure to Japan. The influential MSCI World Index, which fund managers use as a benchmark for international funds, has reduced Japan's weighting from 25 per cent to 15 per cent *in the past year alone.*

Some managers, such as GT Global, have stripped out Japan from their Far East funds, arguing that its senile economy is out of place among the *go-go markets of Hong Kong,* Malaysia and Indonesia. It is all very different from 15 years ago, when Japan was hailed as the economic miracle of the century.

According to Norika Hama, of the Mitsubishi Reasearch Institute in London, Japan needs to undergo another metamorphosis to prosper in the next millennium.

Hama says: "The system that served Japan well for 50 years has outlived its usefulness. It needs deregulation to allow new players, small companies with new ideas and the regional economies to come forward. There has been too much centralisation in Japan. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, has said he is ready to go up in flames to do something similar to Britain's *Big Bang, but I doubt he can* do it. I think there will be a succession of prime ministers and governments until anything is done. Until then, it is not a market you would touch with a barge pole."



Rod Birkett, of Flemings Investment Management, is less gloomy, but admits that the light at the end of the tunnel is no more than a glimmer. He says: "The miracle of Japanese manufacturing has not gone away, it is just that these companies have not produced the earnings per share that UK and US companies have."

That is because Japanese companies put shareholders' interests after their relations with employees, banks and customers, although Birkett sees early signs that this is changing.

He says that a fairer way to value Japanese companies is on price to earnings. On this basis, global players such as Hitachi, NTT and NEC are half the price of their counterparts in the UK and the US. Birkett believes that corporate cashflow will improve later in the economic cycle, boosted by the weak yen. But when will that good value result in higher equity returns for investors? Mr Birkett is not sure, but believes Japan is still a good long-term bet: "The best approach to investment is to buy at the right time and sit on it for ten years. Japan is cheap, and could get cheaper, but at some point it will become expensive," he says.

Investors who are willing to take the plunge should go for managers who have good *track records in picking* stocks.

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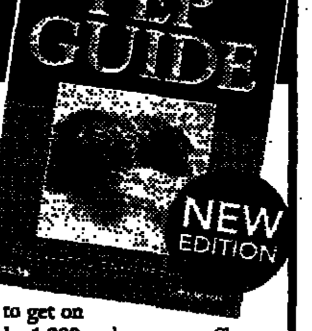

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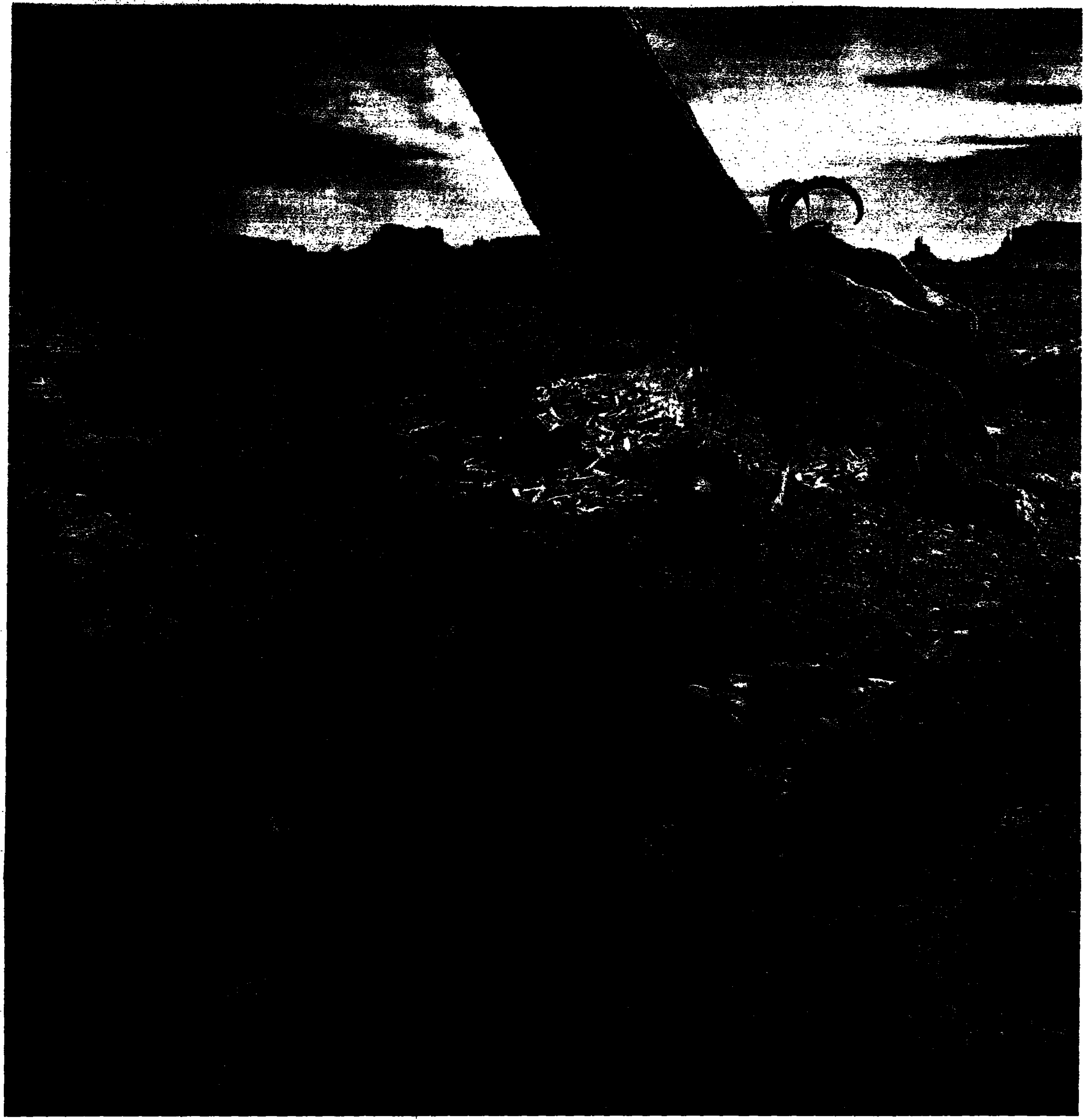

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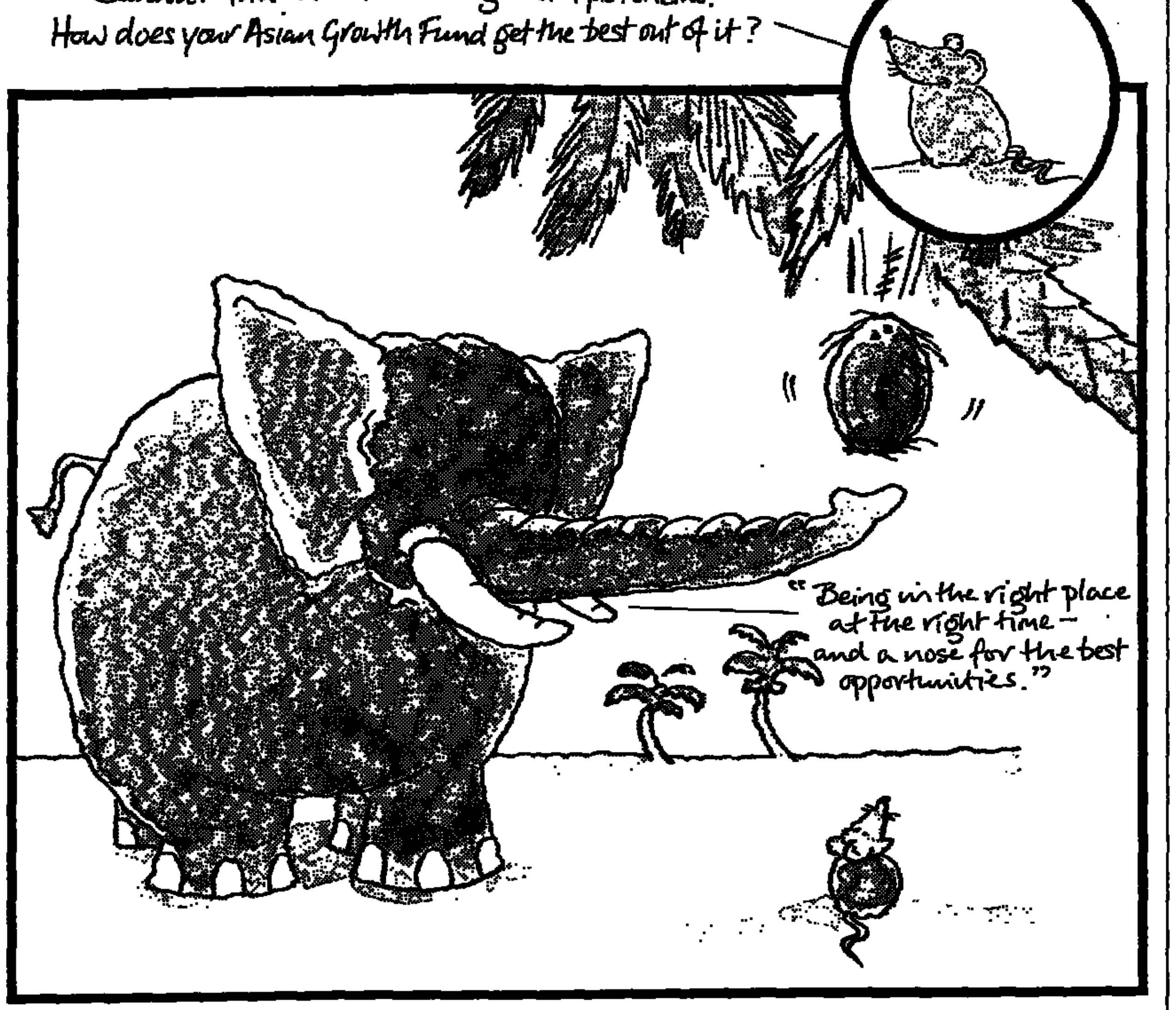
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Caroline Merrell considers the merits of investing on Nasdaq

Think before you buy a piece of America

The smiling face of Bill Gates advertising the advantages of investing or being quoted on Nasdaq, a US stock market, in a current television campaign, could lead to many private investors imagining that they too will rack up wealth akin to that of the Microsoft chairman. His stake in the company he founded is reputed to earn him $15 million a day — adding to his personal wealth, which is reputed to be in the region of $20 billion. However, private investors should be careful before they decide to take the plunge on Nasdaq-quoted companies.

This market, which some claim is similer to the UK's Alternative Investment Market, should be treated with caution. Forty-five per cent of the companies that trade on Nasdaq are technology-based. The high-risk nature of technology shares was graphically illustrated this week in the UK by Virtuality, the virtual reality firm. The company was declared insolvent, owing creditors more than £7 million. Four years ago it floated with a 170p share price. Its shares were suspended at 68.5p.

Nasdaq lists more than 5,500 companies, with a total market capitalisation of £1,000 billion. The average market capitalisation of a Nasdaq company is about £180 million. This average can be compared with, for example, the market capitalisation of Psion, the UK-based personal organiser maker. Its market cap is about £300 million. It can also be compared with the average market cap of an AIM-listed company, which is £35 million.

The returns on Nasdaq, however, have been good. The Nasdaq composite index rose 22 per cent last year, which compares with a rise of 15 per cent in the UK market. In 1995 the Nasdaq index rose 45 per cent.

Last year 655 new public offerings were made through this market, while net new companies joining the market totalled 434.

Advertisements for Nasdaq give a Web site address on the Internet. This will give investors details about the share price movements of particular stocks, and has a list of 50 suggested portfolios.

However, buying and selling shares through Nasdaq can be a tricky process for those in the UK. Tim Cockerill, investment manager at Whitechurch Securities, said: "There are a number of problems for anyone trying to buy US stocks directly. You will have to find a broker that can deal on your behalf. It can be an expensive exercise. You are also subject to the dangers of currency exposure."

Bill Gates and Microsoft are helping to advertise Nasdaq

The recent strength of sterling against the dollar has also been detrimental for US-based investments.

"Nasdaq companies tend to be high technology companies, which are very difficult to understand and price at the best of times. It is difficult in the UK to get good information on these types of companies."

He advised UK investors who were interested in buying in to the US market to choose a collective investment scheme such as an investment trust or a unit trust. He recommended trusts run by Henderson and Prolific. For example, Henderson has three trusts investing in North America. One of them, the American smaller companies trust has risen 155 per cent over the past five years, while Prolific's trust has risen 123 per cent over the same period, according to figures from HSW, the statistics firm.

Matthew Orr, director of Killik & Co, the stockbroker, said: "I do not think that direct equity holdings in US stocks are appropriate for everyone. If you want to buy shares directly in the US market, then you have to get hold of a US broker and get a quote for the price of the stock." He also said it was complicated and expensive to do a transaction through a foreign exchange. Killik's minimum charge for buying or selling US shares is £75. Mr Orr said that in the US it was far easier for those with only small amounts of money to deal cost-effectively. "There are a huge number of discount houses, which makes the market more competitive."

He pointed out that there was a totally different investment culture in the US. Changes introduced after the Second World War and a campaign run by the stock exchange to encourage US citizens to buy a "piece of America" means that today many more Americans have portfolios of stock, compared with UK investors.

Mr Orr said: "Most people in the UK believe that you have to have a lot of money before you can afford the services of a stockbroker."

He also believes that those who are interested in the US market should consider investment through a unit trust or an investment trust.

There about 120 US-invested unit trusts available on the market. Over one year, the average US-invested unit trust rose 10 per cent. Unfortunately, a lot of the rise in the US market was wiped out by the strength of sterling against the dollar. Top performing funds included those run by Old Mutual, Hill Samuel, HSBC, and Invesco.

Over five years, the average US unit trust produced a return of 118 per cent. The best performing funds included those run by Schroders, Perpetual, Govett, Gartmore and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

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Investment Management

Speculators in the South boost prices of property

But Caroline Merrell reports little evidence of a return to the Eighties

Kenneth Clarke this week declined to raise the base rate, anxious not to increase mortgage rates before the general election. The Chancellor was acting against the advice of the Bank of England. Howard Davies, its Deputy Governor, said that the property market was beginning to overheat — a view shared by the professionals.

Despite figures from the Halifax Building Society showing a slowdown in the rate of price rises in January, estate agents in London and the South East are telling purchasers that a degree of speculation is entering in to the market, reminiscent of the boom-bust cycle of the late Eighties.

Many agents are reporting a shortage of supply of property, particularly in fashionable areas.

The increase in activity is pushing up prices of property sharply, particularly in London. Estate agents say many properties are now going for the asking price. Purchasers can no longer afford to negotiate, as they risk losing the choicest properties to a higher bidder.

Estate agents are advising customers to be patient. They claim that more properties will come on to the market later in the year.

Elsewhere, agents are reporting patchy recovery. All say there is some pick-up in activity, and supply is not quite as limited as in London and its surrounding areas.

Some believe that the general election, expected in May, is bound to act as a dampener on the market recovery.

In London, some of the speculation is being driven by foreign investors buying for investment.

Nigel Butcher, an agent with Black Horse agencies, based in Chelsea, said: "We have American, Arab and Japanese investors buying up properties for investment. The strength of sterling means that they can get high returns from renting out property. The pound may end up strengthening even further after the election, which will add to this trend.

"What is happening is that as soon as we have a new property on, before the details have been printed up, we will have had two or three offers at or near the asking price. We then get into a bidding situation."

Mr Butcher said many of those buying property in the area were buyers who had rented for a long time. He said: "We have couples buying flats for £300,000. They may be putting down £125,000 or so of that." He added that big City bonuses were behind some of the speculation.

Estate agents on the outskirts of London are experiencing similar problems.

Andrew Woodcroft, an agent with Woolwich Property Services, based in Woking, Surrey, said: "The market is picking up. I do not think there is a panic situation. A lot of people are buying, there are fewer selling. There is a real shortage of three, four and five-bedroom houses. People are much more positive."

In other parts of the country, the recovery is much slower. Stephen Lofthouse, an agent in Metcalfs, Torquay, said: "The months before Christmas were excellent and this has carried through to the new year. However, we are not seeing any price increases and we do not have a shortage of property. What we are seeing is the discounts narrowing. Vendors are now only willing to take a thousand pounds or so off the asking price."

Mr Lofthouse said that there was still a problem with negative equity in the area. "At the height of the boom, one-bedroom flats were selling for around £45,000. These will now sell for around £20,000. Many first-time buyers are simply missing out this stage and are going for more expensive property."

Steven Beilin, an agent with BE Property Services, Liverpool, is also not as upbeat as agents in the South. He said: "Selling was good up until Christmas. We were expecting a rush after that — but it has not happened. I think there is some concern about the election. The market is also very hot-spottish. There is a shortage of supply of good properties. However, the vendors' position has been strengthened. A property on the market for £38,000 will now go for around £36,500. Previously, it would have gone for £34,000."

North of the border, where prospective purchasers have to submit blind bids when they buy property, is also experiencing something of a boom.

Fiona Cunnigham, a partner with Duncan Hamilton in Edinburgh, said: "We have been incredibly busy. Usually the property market is very quiet in January. We expect this to continue into the spring. Normally you would expect one or two offers but we are getting six at the moment. Some will be way above the valuation. A property that would have sold for £122,000 at the end of last year will now go for £135,000."

Steve Bell, chief economist with Morgan Grenfell, believes the house price recovery will continue, but there will be no return to the excesses of the Eighties. He said: "There has been a real increase in wages, which is helping house price movements. We expect this to continue."

Scottish property is in better shape than its depiction in Lowry's The Old House, Wick

House agents look sharp

Martin Waller shows how estate agents can bend the selling rules

There is something about buying and selling a house that brings out the worst in people, whether it is gazumping or unscrewing the light fittings before you leave. It also brings out the worst in some estate agents, especially in today's market, with too many prospective purchasers chasing too few houses in some areas.

Various sharp practices have emerged. Agents have been known to sign on as purchasers with their rivals and approach genuine sellers whose homes go on the market with a view to poaching their business. More insidious is the attempt to put pressure on buyers to sell their homes through the same agent.

It goes like this. You see the house you want, but you know there are going to be several other potential buyers circling around. You arrange to see the property, and the agent asks about your own house sale. Do you have an estate agent already? Are you happy with them?

You could demonstrate your seriousness by putting your own home in the hands of the agency you are thinking of buying through. In the words of the theatrical East End heavy, nice house purchase you've got here. Wouldn't want anything to happen to it, would we?

The advantage to the agent is two dollops of jam, two sets of fees — and an easy ride, possibly even with the same office handling both transactions, if the properties are sited closely. The disadvantage is that it is illegal, contravening the 1979 Estate Agents Act, and also contrary to all codes of practice.

As bad is a promise to favour existing clients of the agent, giving them first sight of any properties. Look at this extract from a round-robin letter posted to a household in southwest London recently: "If you own a property to sell in SW19 or SW20, we promise to show you all the new properties that come to the market first, within 24 hours. All we want you to do is grant us an audience with you at your home so we can give you a valuation and tell you more about our service."

The implication is clear. This is not illegal — not quite. The agent will give you first call on all new homes on its books if you allow them to get a foot in your door.

To refuse to pass on offers to your clients because the buyers will not sign up with you would be illegal, under the 1979 Estate Agents Act. Nonetheless, it happens.

The above example was viewed by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors as "highly dubious". Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, thought it was "sailing close to the wind". It clearly breaches his association's code of practice, which forbids "giving details of properties first to those who have indicated they are prepared to let you provide services to them".

The people losing out are that agency's existing clients. They are paying for the quickest and easiest sale to the highest buyer — not to buyers prepared to discuss their own house sales with the agent. The conflict is clear. The ideal purchaser might be someone with cash, or a first-time buyer. Neither would get priority.

Estate agents have experienced some lean years, and they clearly intend to make the best of any boom. But Mr Dunsmore-Hardy admits: "It is indicative of a market that, bluntly, is short of properties at the moment that there is some evidence of agents stooping to unethical practices in terms of how they attempt to obtain instructions."

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Analysts back 'innovative technique', says **Marianne Curphey**

Pru ahead in bidding war for ScotAm

Stephen Ross is "very unhappy" with secret bid talks

Prudential has emerged as the front-runner in the bidding war for Scottish Amicable, the mutual life insurer. City analysts have been tipping Prudential as the favourite because of the strength of its own life company and the financial security it offers.

Meanwhile, Prudential, Abbey National and Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) have signed confidentiality clauses allowing them access to Scottish Amicable's sensitive financial information.

All companies which sign such agreements will be forbidden from using the information to make a hostile bid in the future. Drawing up legal contracts has taken about a week. Other potential bidders include Fortis, Aegon, ING Barings, GE Capital and BAT Industries, which owns Eagle Star.

However, despite the high level of interest which Scottish Amicable has excited, policyholders of the mutual will only be given a synopsis of the bids made. The Scottish Amicable board will choose the offer it believes is the best and make a recommendation that policyholders accept it. Scam, the action group led by Stephen Ross of Northways Insurance, a London firm of brokers, believes policyholders should be made aware of all bids and is demanding an independent review to run the bidding war. Insurance analysts believe the bidding war has been effectively won by Prudential and that potential suitors will now turn their attention to other attractive mutuals, including Friends Provident, NPI and Scottish Widows.

Prudential has a £1.9 billion bid on the table, compared with Abbey National's £1.4 billion bid. Abbey has pledged to increase the offer and incorporate aspects of the Prudential's offer.

However, Nick Bunker, insurance analyst with James Capel, believes that the Prudential has the best-constructed bid because it would use the financial clout of its own giant life fund to make a £1.1 billion loan to Scottish Amicable. Prudential is also offering £400 million in bonuses, which will be paid for from free assets in Scottish Amicable's life fund. The £400 million cash or shares will come from the £250 million of shareholders' funds and from £150 million worth of cost savings from combining the operations of the two insurers.

The Abbey's initial bid offers about £1 billion for the profits from future business written by Scottish Amicable (known as embedded value) and £400 million in Abbey cash or shares.

Scottish Amicable now admits that its own offer — £75 million worth of bonuses it originally offered, plus further bonuses in three to five years — will probably not be included in the recommendation. Some aspects of this offer, including an incentive scheme that could have awarded the Scottish Amicable directors up to £1 million each, angered policyholders.

Mr Bunker said Prudential appeared to be the front-runner because it had enough financial strength to make a loan to Scottish Amicable's life fund and offer cash to policyholders without straining its own reserves. He believes the offer will be successful because of Prudential's "innovative technique" of distributing the free assets in the Scottish Amicable life fund to policyholders, and the management strength it can offer.

"AMP is not in the same league as the Prudential," he said. "It is a mutual and not the powerful quoted company with the reputation in the City that Prudential has." He believes that BAT does not have a big enough life company to compete with Prudential.

Birmingham Midshires to charge

THE END of free banking has come a step nearer after Birmingham Midshires, the building society regarded widely as one of the most likely to convert to a bank, announced plans to introduce fees on two of its instant access accounts (Marianne Curphey writes).

The fees, being introduced from March 31, 1997, will affect only customers with balances of less than £500 in the society's Quantum and First Class (postal) Instant Access Accounts.

For customers with between £100 and £499 in their accounts, there will be six free withdrawals per quarter. After that there will be a £1 withdrawal fee. Customers with a balance of under £100 will pay a fee of £1 per withdrawal and a £3 annual fee.

Birmingham Midshires is the fifth society to introduce fees on some of its savings accounts. Alliance & Leicester, Britannia, Bristol & West and Coventry already operate transaction fees. A number of banks, including Barclays and NatWest, have introduced paid-for accounts with perks and free products.

Some industry observers have suggested that, in time, all banks and building societies will discriminate against customers with low balances who do not buy any other products, such as insurance or a mortgage, from them. Birmingham Midshires customers will not have to pay fees if they have a mortgage, pensions or insurance policy with the society, or any other account with a balance of £500 and above, including offshore accounts.

Ian Kerr, head of retail services, said: "We have to question whether there is a long-term future for free banking and we need to take action now to … avoid attracting more high-transacting customers trying to avoid the charges imposed by our competitors."

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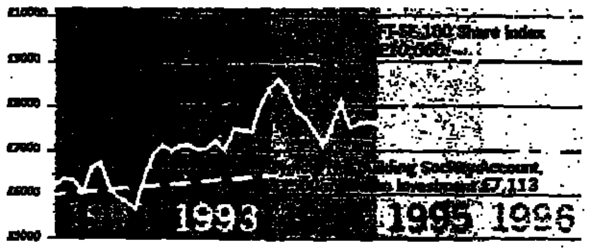

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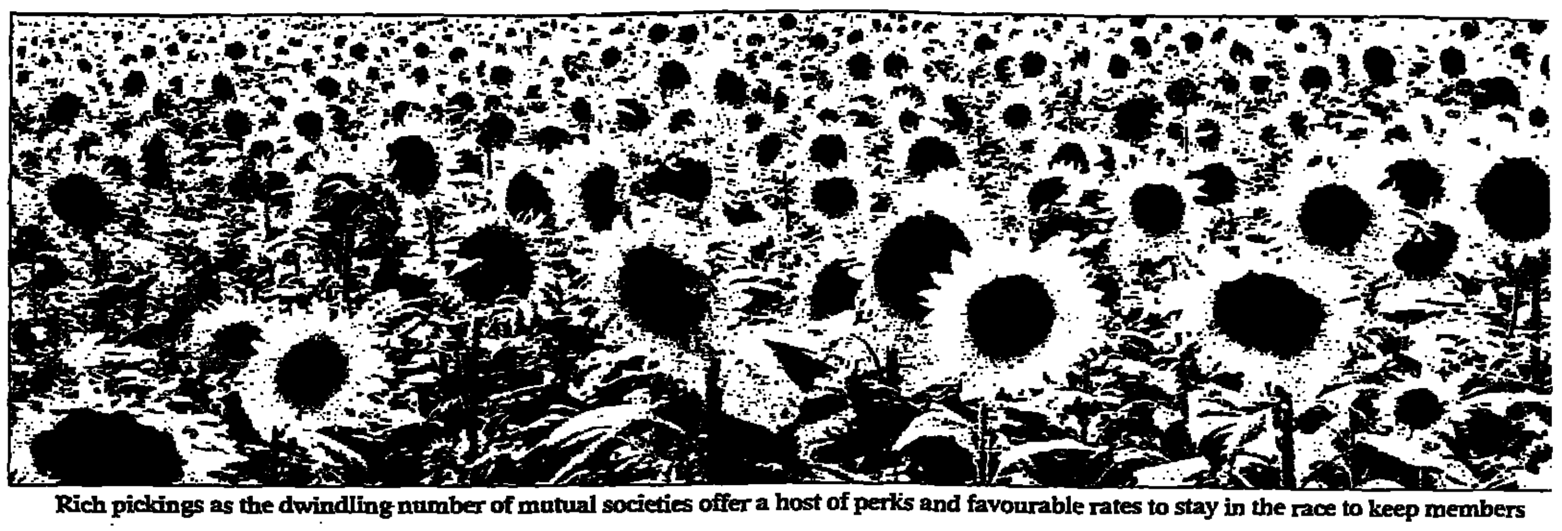
Britannia puts a value on mutual perks

SOCIETY WATCH

Gavin Lumsden compares the various loyalty benefits offered by building societies



Rich pickings as the dwindling number of mutual societies offer a host of perks and favourable rates to stay in the race to keep members

One million Britannia Building Society members will find out how much mutuality is worth when they receive their first loyalty bonus later this month.

For most, the initial answer is not a lot. Britannia is divvying up £35 million, around a third of last year's profits, giving an average payment of £35, which is subject to tax.

The bonus payments go to savers and borrowers who were members throughout 1996. This excludes around 300,000 deposit account holders and a further 300,000 opportunistic "carpetbaggers" who leapt in after the first demutualisations were announced last spring.

How much members get depends on how many points, worth 22p, they have accrued. Savings up to £20,000 get one point for every £100 whereas mortgage payments up to £500 per month get one point per £1. Britannia rewards long-term members, multiplying their number of points by 1.5 if they have been with the society for over five years and doubling them over ten years.

A total of 780,000 members will get less than £50 as a result and another 217,000 up to £100. Two-year members with £2,500 in an instant access account will get a miserly £5.50, enough for two pints of lager and no crisps.

Only 43,000 people, around 3 per cent of members, get more than £100. To get this a recent member must have a £420 monthly mortgage, £5,000 in a high interest account and a life assurance policy with Britannia.

Britannia is the only society rewarding its members with a pseudo dividend, which it claims will match what the Woolwich, Halifax and Northern Rock will be able to pay out when they convert. The society is not paying thousands of pounds of free shares either, but then as a committed defender of the mutual faith, it is not trying to buy the business off its members.

Other societies resisting the conversion tide, notably, Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Coventry and Yorkshire, have opted for members' benefit schemes, reserving between a third and a half of annual profits to improving their savings and mortgage rates.

Nationwide committed itself to passing on £200 million of benefits to its seven million borrowers and savers last year. Bradford & Bingley set aside £50 million for rate improvements and is offering 1-2.1 per cent discounts on its 6.99 per cent base rate for up to five years. However, borrowers have to take out insurance products with B&B to get the best discounts.

Coventry Building Society has distributed £20 million of profits through schemes such as the Privilege mortgage rate for borrowers who have been with the society for five years. The rate is currently 6.5 per cent, compared with the 7.25 per cent standard variable rate. Coventry says this has saved borrowers £229 in 1996.

Yorkshire reckons it will have given back around £40 million in improved rates in the past 12 months, the equivalent to half of annual profits. Its standard variable mortgage rate is 6.94 per cent for all its 160,000 borrowers and interest on its instant access account starts at 2.1 per cent.

Some societies have not launched schemes but have nonetheless been forced to reduce margins to remain competitive. Portman, for instance, says it is still committed to smaller savers and pays 4.6 per cent on its instant access account.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, says: "Britannia's loyalty bonus is a more complex scheme than a commitment to better rates, but is a more high profile way of demonstrating to members the benefits of mutuality. Britannia members will clearly see that they have been given a chunk of the society's profits."

Competitive despite bonus

So is it a simple choice between cash in hand or better rates? Not yet. Comparing Britannia with the societies offering benefit schemes and Abbey National, which has converted, with the Halifax, which is about to, it is clear that the bonus giver is still holding its head up. While its rates are not always the best, so far it has remained competitive.

According to figures from Moneyfacts, Britannia offers 0.1 per cent to 3.35 per cent on instant access accounts, far better than Abbey and Halifax and matching most accounts from the other benefits givers. However, for deposits over £25,000, Nationwide's CashBuilder offers 4.1 per cent and Bradford & Bingley's direct premium account 5.5 per cent. On postal accounts the society is middle of the road with rates from 4.85 per cent to 5.6 per cent.

On notice products, rates on Britannia's high interest and bonus builder 60-day accounts start at 3.5 per cent and 3.85 per cent, higher than Abbey, Bradford & Bingley, Halifax and Yorkshire, but lower than Nationwide.

On mortgages, Britannia's 7.25 per cent standard variable rate is the consensus, although it follows a year in which it has spent £45 million in discounts wooing first-time borrowers. It is also offering its rate-reversal mortgage capped at 6.99 per cent until September 1999 which will decline if base rates drop before then.

Of course this might change. So, while the letter from Britannia this month might contain a welcome, if small, surprise for members, they should keep a watchful eye on what the society does with rates in the future.

Not that Britannia intends to let its members forget the society. John Heaps, chief executive, says awarding the bonus has taught the society a lot about its members. For instance, it was surprised to learn that the average member had been with the society for seven-and-a-half years, far longer than expected. It is intending to increase the amount of cross-selling of products to customers, particularly on its Pep range. So expect more mail from Britannia in future.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

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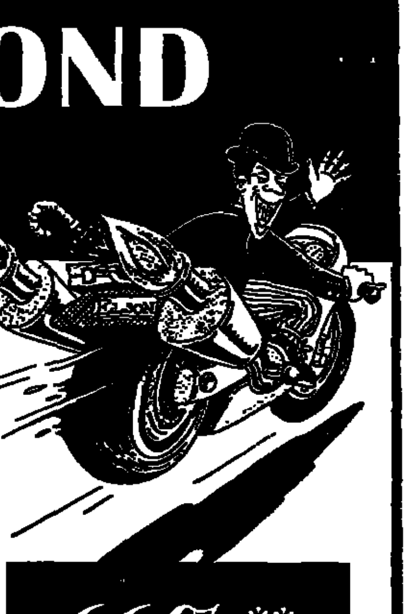

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Martin Waller explains the language of shares for investors

How the City does its sums

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE STOCK MARKET

In the fourth of a five-part series, Weekend Money sees how the professionals value shares and how such City techniques can be used by the private investor. We will look at companies that raise fresh cash, and how the small shareholder should react. Some of this is rather technical; all is important, if you want to be a serious investor, rather than someone who waits for the dividend cheque twice a year. The more you know about your investments, the more control you have over them.

The **price-earnings ratio** together with the *dividend yield* is the *most* important investment measure, which is why both are quoted on newspaper share price pages. The p/e ratio tells you how the City regards your company, and how it compares with its peers on the stock market.

The *number* is achieved by taking the share price and dividing it by the **earnings per share**. This last is just what it *sounds: it is found by dividing* annual profits by the number of shares in existence. It will come out as a number in pence.

This is not an objective indicator of profitability, because it varies according to how many shares there are in issue, and this varies from *company* to company.

Take a share price of 480p, for a company that made 40p last financial year in profits for each share *in issue*. The share price represents 12 years' of such profit, and we say it has a p/e ratio of 12. This is otherwise expressed as, "the shares sell on 12 times' earnings". This is a bit below the general stock market average.

Obviously, if the share price *of this company rises to 560p*, then the ratio, or rating, rises to 14. So the ratio tells you what the market thinks of the shares. Take a *company on* a sky-high ratio of 25.

The market thinks it is worth more, share per share, than other companies on the *market — perhaps* because growth prospects are so good that in a few years' time profits will have doubled. Generally, so *will* earnings *per share*. If this happens, the ratio will by that time have fallen to a more conservative 12.5.

A company selling on a very low ratio says the market does *not* trust the *profits* to keep flowing at their current rate. Sometimes we say that there is doubt over the **quality of earnings**.

Some companies, by their nature, command a lower ratio than others. You would not expect a mine, say, with *only four years' production* left to sell on much more than four times' profits. Think about it. In four years' time, there won't be any.

Some people rely on forecast profits, as estimated by City stockbrokers, rather than those published. The resulting number is called a **prospective price-earnings ratio**, the *one* based on *last year's profits* a **historic one**.

And a mental short cut. It is not a strict analogy, but you *might think about the earnings* ratio as an estimate of how long the company is expected to be around in that form. *What do brokers think of the lifespan of a business on* 30 times' earnings? And one on seven? What the price-earnings ratio really says is *what the City thinks is going to* happen to the share price in future.

A little knowledge can make the stock market child's play

DIVIDEND YIELD

THIS is the *mirror image of* the earnings *ratio. It* helps to compare *how much* dividend *the* company pays out, in contrast to its peers. The dividend is divided by the market price, after an adjustment is made for *tax, to* give a yield. *This, published* on the *share prices* page, tells you how much income you can expect for every pound invested in the company.

This time, *the higher* the price, *the lower the* yield. As *the price* falls, the yield looks more attractive — but beware, the price may be falling because the market expects profits to fall. *In that case*, this *may* be reflected in a dividend cut, so the yield becomes irrelevant.

British Telecom *now sells on a yield of* approaching 6 per cent, based on the current year's expected dividend. Cable and Wireless, in the same business, sells *on* a yield of not *much* more than half this — but C&W is a much more highly rated company than BT. Some observers *think it* will be the subject of a **takeover bid** this year. By comparison, the price-earnings multiple of C&W is about 17 *for the current year, while that* of BT a more lowly 14.

Broadly speaking, a highly rated company should have a lower yield, therefore, because *the City thinks profits*, and so dividends, will rise in future years. A company whose shares are on a high yield is a more staid business. But *remember — too high* a yield suggests the dividend will have to be cut.

HOW A COMPANY RAISES MONEY

IF COMPANIES want to raise fresh cash, either to fund expansion or to pay for earlier *mistakes, they come* cap in hand to the people who own them. That is, you.

The **rights issue** is a way of *issuing* further shares, at a *price* attractive to investors. They buy them at that price, so raising the needed cash. The issue is expressed as a ratio of the *number of new shares to* the existing ones. Say your company proposes to create one new share for every five in existence, expressed as a one-*for-five rights issue. If the* company's market worth is £1 billion, then it should be raising £200 million.

In actual fact it will raise *rather* less. There are the expenses of the issue, all those City fees, including those for **underwriting**. This is a process whereby financial institu*tions* agree *that they will take* the shares, if no one else will. That way, the company is guaranteed the money even if the *market collapses* before *the shares* go out.

The cost of underwriting is generally one and a half per cent of the amount of money raised, *spread* around a variety of City institutions — or £3 million, in the above case.

But the real reason why a *one-for-five rights issue does* not raise money equivalent to a fifth of the company's stock market worth is because the *shares have to be priced more* cheaply than the current market price. Again, think about it. You hold shares valued at £5 each. Do you really want *more at the same price* — especially as the price is likely to fall; following the normal laws of supply and demand, once new shares *become available*?

But if you have not sold out at £5, a batch of new shares at, say, 450p each might seem attractive. This is how they are priced. The less attractive the *issue*, the bigger the *gap* between the market price and the issue price, the **discount**.

Under the rules, you must be *offered shares in proportion to your existing holding* — with a one-for-five rights *where* you hold 1,000 shares you must be offered 200. If you do not want them, they go to those institutions who *underwrote* the issue. This need to offer new shares to those who own the company, the shareholders, is called a **pre-emption right**, and it is the subject of huge debate in the City.

The only way to deal with rights issues is to decide, as close as you can to the deadline and according to your personal circumstances, whether *you want the shares. Take* guidance from your financial adviser, or the financial press.

Some technicalities. The rights to the shares, that is the *entitlement as a shareholder* to buy them at this discount, are usually worth something. They will be quoted separately on the share price pages, next *to the existing shares*. These are said to be traded ex-rights, so the letters "xr" are attached to the price to indicate this.

If you decide not to take the new shares, you should sell these rights to them. This compensates you for any loss in value for your existing shares because of the cheaper ones coming *onto* the *market*. If you do not sell the rights, the company will do it for you.

Next week we conclude our whistle-stop *tour of* share ownership with a look at takeover bids and the structure of City institutions — and the world of insider trading.

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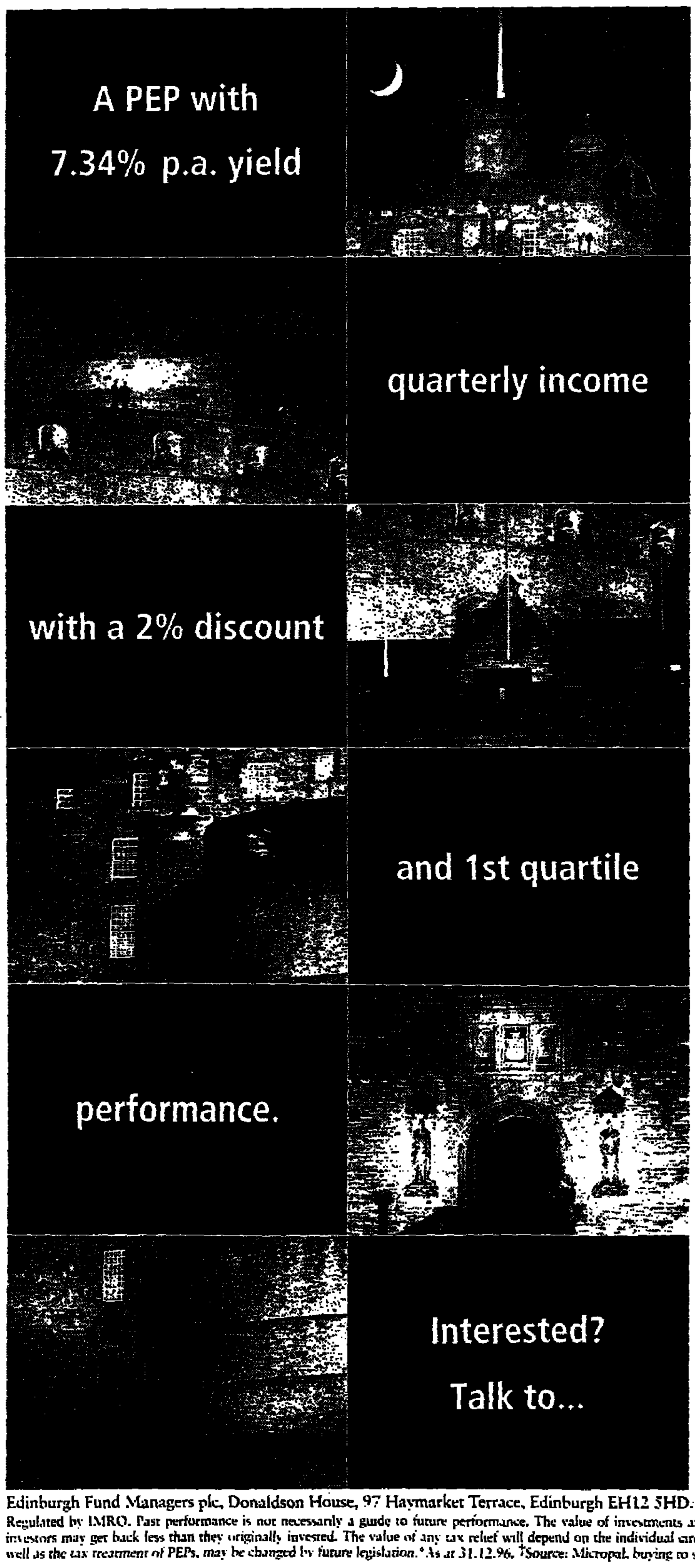

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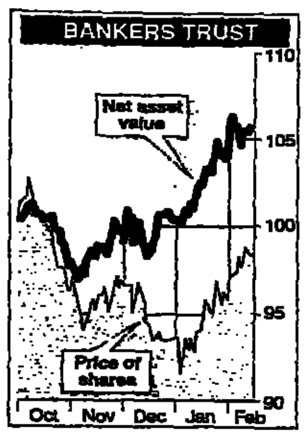
Investment trusts may prove a bargain buy

Trust fans could find best fruits in the quality funds, says Nathan Yates

PETER LEA

Eye for bargain: Phil Calcott profited from Tesco bananas



Investment trusts are often shunned by the private investor because of their complex pricing system. But as Phil Calcott, a physicist, found last month with Tesco's cut-price bananas, pricing regulations can be exploited to your profit. Mr Calcott made £25 from his banana bulk-buying using his Tesco Clubcard. In the same way, some analysts believe investment trust valuing complications could make some funds a good buy.

The price of investment trust shares is determined by market demand rather than the performance of the fund. A current dearth of buyers means share prices have slumped below the value of assets, and on average investment companies were trading at a 10.8 per cent discount to net asset value last year.

Some analysts say the increase in discounting means that even traditionally premium-rated stock is now available at knockdown prices. The favourable rates could tempt an influx of institutional buyers in the course of the year.

"At the moment we are seeing the widest discounts for a long time in the investment trust market," said John Korwin-Szymanowski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg. "Discounts in the recent past have usually reflected the quality of the funds concerned, but now we're seeing some top performing funds at low prices. There's a gap opening up between performance and popular appeal, and there are signs that traders are beginning to step in to exploit it. Sierra Trading, the American company, has bought quite heavily into the Kleinwort investment trusts recently, and I expect this to be part of an increasing trend.

"Last year was a bad one for investment trusts. There were too many new trusts launched, and you could argue there has also been too much money placed abroad. But performance is outstripping demand, and the extent to which prices are lagging behind the value of assets in this market means that we must be near the bottom of the downward swing. Barring stock market disasters there should be an upturn in investment trust prices this year."

For the private investor the possibility of a rise in share prices offers the potential for short-term profits as well as the long-term advantage of retaining quality holdings bought at discount rates.

But those hoping to achieve this "double whammy" should be warned that not all analysts agree that the price rise will happen. The ever-rising stock market and the forthcoming election could spell turbulent times ahead, and some experts believe the majority of investment trusts are still far too overweight in areas such as the Far East and in the smaller companies size range.

Private investors willing to take the risk of backing a rise in investment trust shares should make their choice of fund carefully. Just 10 per cent of investment companies own 50 per cent of the industry's assets, so there are many small and unpopular trusts on the market which may well be priced at a discount for the foreseeable future.

Would-be trust baggers should select quality funds which have a consistent performance record. Experts' tips include the Bankers Trust, currently priced at an 8 per cent discount. Other companies offering funds said to be underpriced include RIT, Finsbury, Alliance, Herald, Aberforth, Invesco and NatWest.

NatWest Securities links up for the Internet

THE old world of investment trusts met up with the new world of the Internet this week with the launch of a Website dedicated to UK closed end funds.

NatWest Securities, a leading analyst on investment trusts, has teamed up with Interactive Investor, the firm dedicated to putting financial information on the World Wide Web.

Tap in www.iii.co/uk/natwest/ and you can access 365 investment trusts with daily updated data on performance, yield, share price, discount and asset allocation.

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For the sophisticated there is a separate section on the 60 split-capital investment trusts. This will give you data on redemption yields, cover ratios and hurdle rates. You can even program the site to send an e-mail if a buying or selling chance occurs. "It can be like the price in a newspaper reaching out and tapping you on the shoulder," says Sherry Coutu, managing director of Interactive Investor.

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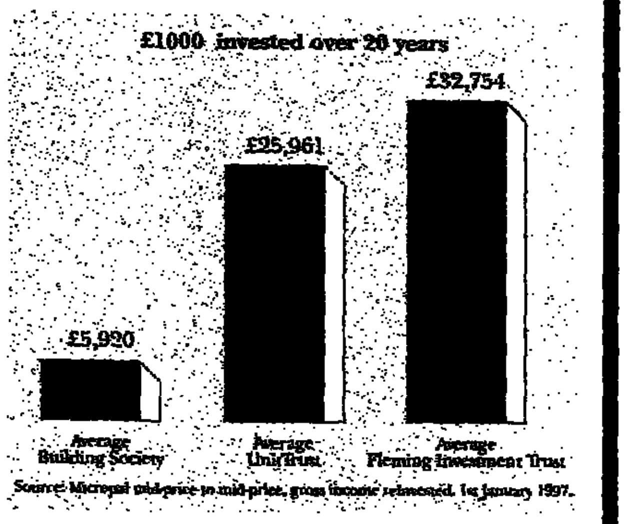

Source: Micropal mid-price to mid-price, gross income reinvested. 1st January 1997.

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who has not used any tobacco products [illegible]
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2 Rougier Street, York [illegible]
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299/08
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Person to be insured)________
Forename(s)________
Surname________
Address________
________ Postcode________
Telephone (inc STD code) Daytime________
Evening________ Date of birth___/___/___

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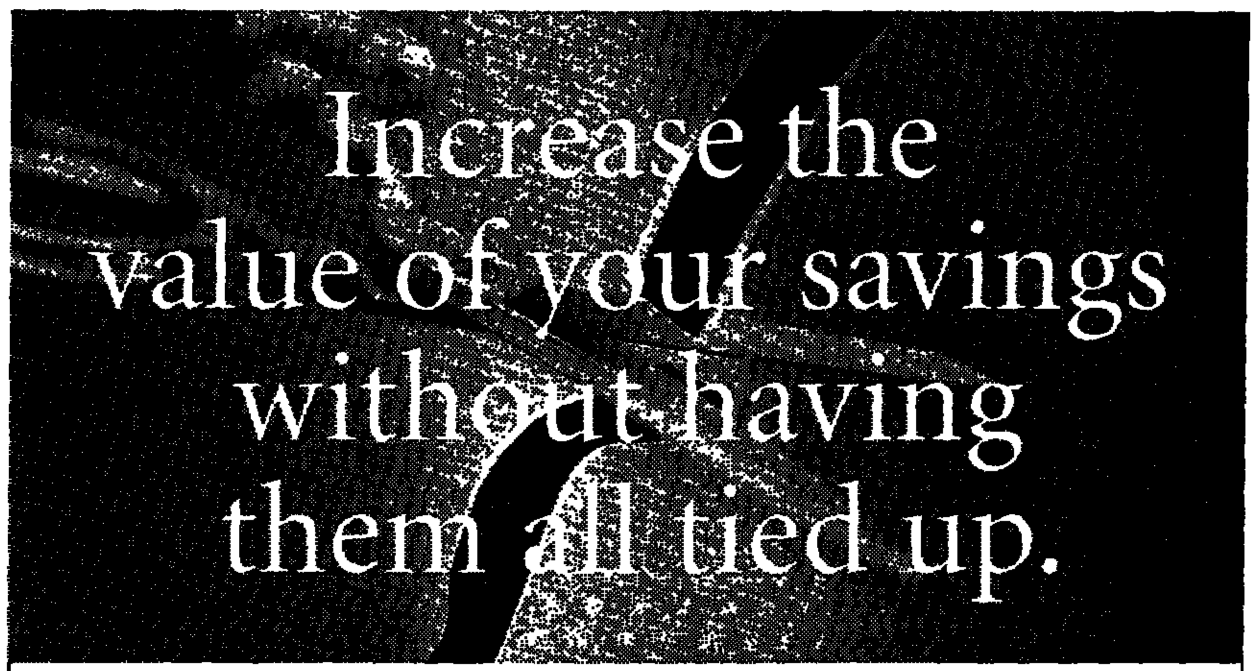

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	£500 – £4,999		£5,000 – £9,999		£10,000 – £24,999		£25,000 – £49,999	
	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Gross*	Gross CAR**
Bank of Scotland Banking Direct Instant Access Savings Account	4.65%	4.75%	5.13%	5.25%	5.60%	5.75%	5.60%	5.75%
Abbey National Investment (90 Day Notice)	3.05%	3.05%	3.30%	3.30%	4.00%	4.00%	4.55%	4.55%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	3.00%	3.00%	3.25%	3.25%	4.00%	4.00%	4.50%	4.50%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.50%	3.50%	4.20%	4.20%	4.80%	4.80%

Source: Moneyfacts 12th February 1997

You don't have to tie up your savings for 90 days to earn a higher rate of interest. Quite the reverse, as a glance at the table above will show.

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Address:________
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* Gross. The annual rate of interest paid without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non tax-payers.
** Gross CAR (Compounded Annual Rate). This is the gross rate adjusted to show the annual rate effectively received by a customer if interest applied during a year remained in the account and earned interest (i.e. interest was compounded). Interest rates correct at time of printing but subject to variation.
Interest calculated daily and credited monthly.
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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Focus on growth of tax havens

SWITZERLAND remains the most successful tax haven with more than one third of the world's offshore private wealth estimated to have been entrusted to Swiss financial institutions. Tax havens' popularity is still growing despite barriers imposed by high-tax governments. according to *Tax Havens and Their Uses 1997*, published by The Economist Intelligence Unit. The report gives fresh and updated financial and legal information on the world's leading fiscal refuges. It also looks at the issues raised by the use of offshore centres for the laundering of proceeds from organised crime. Available, priced £95, from The Economist Intelligence Unit, 15 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4LR (tel 0171-830 1007).

■ Nationwide is launching its own credit and gold cards. No annual fee will be charged and the new cards will feature low interest rates with a period of interest-free credit, plus extra benefits such as free Purchase Protection Cover. The cards will be available to new and existing customers from March and offer 9.9 per cent APR for transferred balances, 16.9 per cent APR for purchases, free travel accident insurance and optional payment protection insurance covering accident, sickness and unemployment. Ask at your local Nationwide branch.

■ A practical guide to the Pension Scheme disclosure rules has been produced by Alexander Clay, the actuary. The guide explains in simple terms what information needs to be provided to members and the timescales prescribed. A set of checklists to help schemes to prepare and amend communication material is included and cover trustees' report, members' booklet, and benefit statements. The guide is available to scheme trustees and companies free of charge by calling 0181-864 9966.

■ The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) has produced a free investor guide to Peps. The Pep pack contains factsheets explaining bond fund Peps, Peps and pensions — how a unit trust Pep can supplement retirement income — Pep mortgages plus the basic Pep rules. Pep packs are available from the Unit Trust Information Service: 0181-207 1361.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 0800 807080	Instant Acc	Instant	£100	4.70	Yly
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 480214	Postal Direct	Postal	£1,000	5.60	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instant Post	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	*Select 60*	*60 day*	*£10,000*	*6.50*	*Yly*
Birm Midshires BS 0500 070707	First Class 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.55	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	*Fixed Rate*	*5 year*	*£8,575*	*7.50*	*F/Yly*
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed Rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 6260879	Premier	5 year	£9,000	7.20	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		*5 year*	*£3,000*	*7.00*	*Yly*

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.797%N	9.90%N	Nil

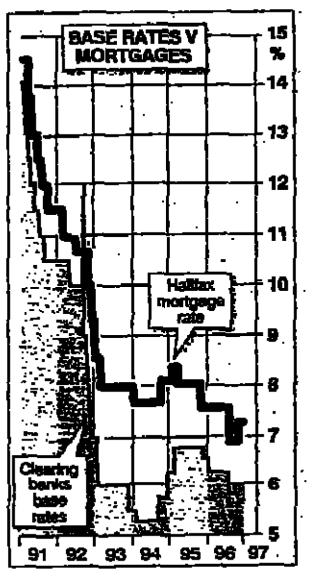
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

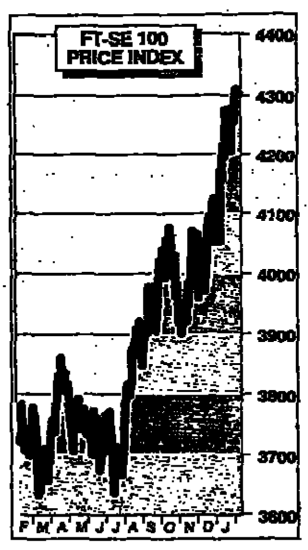
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£112.66	£102.59
Lombard Direct 0800 215000	13.90%A	£102.02	£101.20
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.78	£101.45

Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[2]	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*[6]	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†‡	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds[6]	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†‡	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3[6]	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000[5]	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. Inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [5] £100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings [6] Taxable but cred in full [7] £500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,778	£10,844	£12,248
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,905	£10,824	£12,027
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,636	£10,747	£12,249
Canada Lf ....Level	£ 9,647	£10,728	£12,203
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£ 9,657	£10,702	£12,128

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£8,948	£ 9,757	£10,943
Prudential ....Level	£8,943	£ 9,701	£10,806
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,971	£ 9,658	£10,617
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£8,913	£ 9,658	£10,751
Sun Life ....Level	£8,825	£ 9,620	£10,779

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,660	£9,186	£ 9,908
Canada Life ....Level	£8,520	£9,140	£10,020
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£8,534	£9,113	£ 9,936
Prudential ....Level	£8,503	£9,098	£ 9,931
Sun Life ....Level	£8,438	£9,064	£ 9,946

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at February 13, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	5,000	Financial Assur	5.30
	10,000	AIG Life	5.40
	20,000	AIG Life	5.55
	50,000	Financial Assur	5.65
2 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.90
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.00
3 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.30
4 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.55
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
5 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.70

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed.

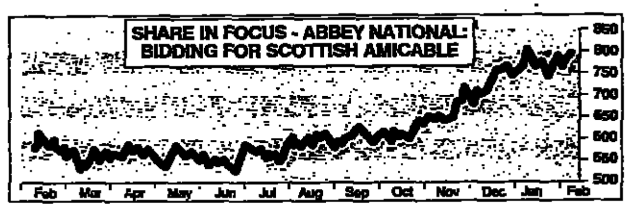
Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	109.73	8.527	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	134.58	8.638	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	150.41	8.643	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	155.62	8.595	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	150.41	8.643	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	141.51	8.530	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	132.68	8.856	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	105.59	8.287	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	140.63	8.163	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	162.64	8.378	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	156.52	8.545	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	127.22	8.425	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	149.17	8.464	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	149.52	8.444	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	150.70	8.544	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	111.50	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	*8.48750%*	*101.50*	*100.00*	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90	3% disc-1.3.98 + 3% cashback
Birm Mid Mort SVS *01344 394000*	3.21	£100k	75	4% disc-31.8.97 *2% disc-28.2.99*
Nationwide 0800 302010	3.09	to £500k	75	3.90% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mth
Midland 0800 494 999	3.99	£100k+	80	3.00% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Standard 0191 257 4123	*1.49*	*to £100k*	*80*	*6% discount for 1 year*
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-250k	90	6.49% disc-6mth 1.99%-6m,0.99%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Midland Bank 0800 494999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for 1 year
Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland *0118 9510100*	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths *3% disc 6 mths*
TSB Bank. 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE,				
0131 339 9191				
Balanced	543.10	574.80	+ 3.60	...
UK Equity	730.30	772.90	+ 7.20	...
Property	422.80	447.50	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	371.50	393.20	+ 2.60	..
Money	271.50	287.40	+ 0.20	...
International	429.60	454.70	+ 6.00	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth				
BH8 8AL				
01202 292373				
Custodian S4	200.40	211	+ 2.70	..
Ethical S4	172.90	182.10	+ 2.50	...
International S4	223.80	235.60	+ 3.80	...
Protected Gth S4	125.10	131.70	+ 0.20	..
Asian Pacific	218.50	230.10	+ 2.90	...
European S4	229.40	241.50	+ 2.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	403.30	424.60	+ 0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	287	302.20	+ 3.50	...
Man Ser 4	813.90	856.80	-11.70	..
Conv Ser 4	354.90	373.60	- 1.60	..
Money Ser 4	354.50	373.20	- 1.10	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	409.10	430.70	+ 4.30	...
American Ser 4	721.40	759.40	+29.20	..
High Inc Ser 4	868.30	914.60	+ 6.80	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	237.30	249.80	+ 3.40	...
Japan Ser 4	277.60	292.30	+11.70	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2057.40	2165.61	-12.20	..
European Fd Acc	508.10	534.80	+ 9.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	597.90	618.80	- 4.20	.
Gtd Money Acc	363.00	382.10	- 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	754.20	793.90	+ 5.70	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	376.00	395.70	- 3.00	..
Japan Fund	217.40	228.80	+12.30	..
N American Acc	459.70	483.80	+15.41	...
Prop Fd Acc	482.00	507.30	+ 0.60	
Multiple Inv Acc	1290.00	1347.30	+33.00	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	407.30	428.80	- 0.40	...
Equity Acc	1800.90	1895.70	+20.90	..
Property Acc	666.30	701.41	+ 0.70	..
Far East Acc	327.80	345.10	+ 2.80	.
Managed Capital	634.70	668.20	+ 6.50	.
-do- Acc	1360.13	1438.70	+14.10	..
Overseas Acc	1254.80	1320.90	+10.90	..
Gilt Edged Acc	573.70	603.90	+ 5.81	..
Amer Equity Acc	1220.00	1284.30	+41.30	..
Amer Man Acc	508.30	535.00	+16.20	...
Amer Prop Acc	120.10	126.40	- 0.90	.
Distribution Bonds	26.30	27.70	- 0.20	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	181.10	190.60	+ 0.80	...
Balced Ser 6	894.00	941.00	+11.90	.
Opportunity Ser 6	204.50	215.20	+ 3.00	..
Distribution Ser 6	109.50	115.20	- 1.00	6.29
UK Equities Ser 6	£13.16	£13.95	+18.00	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	£13.54	£14.25	+13.90	...
North Amer Ser 6	621.70	653.30	+ 9.30	...
Far East Ser 6	560.40	589.80	- 8.80	..
Europe Ser 6	516.90	544.10	+10.40	..
Intnl Ser 6	692.70	729.10	+12.30	...
Property Ser 6	612.50	644.70	+ 0.90	.
Fixed Int Ser 6	506.70	533.30	- 3.40	.
Ind-Lnkd Ser S6	207.50	219.40	+ 2.90	..
Gteed Dep Ser 6	324.30	341.30	+ 0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB				
0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1131.30	1190.70	+ 8.70	...
-do- Initial	692.50	729.00	+ 5.30	..
Gilt Edged Acc	456.90	481.00	- 5.00	..
-do- Initial	282.20	297.10	- 3.10	...
International Acc	471.30	496.20	+11.00	...
-do- Initial	289.20	304.50	+ 0.70	...
Managed Acc	658.50	693.20	+ 7.80	
-do- Initial	405.50	426.90	+ 4.80	.
Money Acc	316.60	333.30	+ 0.20	...
Property Acc	322.60	339.60	+ 0.30	
-do- Initial	197.70	208.20	...	...
America Acc	417.10	439.10	+18.50	...
Far East Gwth	267.40	281.50	+ 0.10	..
Financial Acc	499.60	525.90	+ 5.70	
S&U Accum	554.20	583.40	+ 0.70	...
Japan Acc	218.70	230.30	+10.60	...
Income Acc	666.00	701.10	+ 4.70	...
Leisure Acc	340.10	358.10	+ 4.40	..
Special Sits Acc	346.00	364.30	+ 0.90	...
Unit Tech Acc	192.60	202.80	+ 4.40	.
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	907.33	957.31	+11.58	...
Income Fund	943.16	992.80	- 7.08	..
Extra Income	856.80	901.90	+11.75	.
Worldwide Gth	941.18	990.72	+10.05	..
Balanced Fund	846.89	891.47	- 5.04	...
Smllr Cos Recov	£11.14	£11.72	- 1.26	..
N Amer & Genrl	497.30	523.58	+10.95	.
Pacific Basin	449.02	472.66	- 4.77	...
German Growth	269.41	283.59	- 3.41	.
Japan Growth	144.52	152.14	+ 4.88	...
The UK Gth Fd	275.56	290.07	+ 1.87	...
Contl Euro Gth	176.28	185.57	- 2.10	.
Property Fund	427.13	449.62	+ 0.42	...
Fixed Interest	379.35	399.32	- 3.32	...
Cash Fund	307.75	323.95	+ 0.23	...
Managed Inv	595.17	626.50	+ 7.22	..
Nth Amer Recov.	314.14	330.73	- 3.83	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	544.63	573.30	+ 0.99	..
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR				
0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	204.60	215.00	+ 1.80	.
Performance Plus	245.20	258.40	+ 2.70	
With Profit Perf	190.20	201.20	+ 0.20	
UK Opportunity	265.30	280.70	+ 2.00	...
Euro Opportunity	293.20	310.20	+ 7.00	...
North Amer Opp	259.60	274.70	+ 2.70	...
Far East Opp	209.50	221.60	+ 1.40	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	176.60	186.20	+ 2.10	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	213.40	225.90	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int	237.10	251.80	+ 2.90	...
Cash	172.10	182.00	- 0.10	6.49
Overseas	282.50	299.00	+ 3.10	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	434.90	457.80	+ 6.00	..
UK Equity	805.30	847.70	+ 8.80	..
Property	292.10	307.50	- 2.40	...
Money Market	272.70	287.10	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	344.30	362.50	+ 4.10	...
Japan	296.30	311.90	-12.70	..
North America	233.70	246.00	+ 5.20	..
International	439.60	462.80	+ 7.90	.
European	378.10	398.00	+12.20	.
Far East	157.10	165.40	+ 3.10	.
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
01707 51122				
Equity Growth †	282.80	...	...	...
Managed	411.50	433.20	+ 6.00	...
Property	268.70	282.90	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	279.30	294.10	+ 2.40	...
Equity	498.40	524.70	+ 7.70	...
Cash	232.30	244.60	+ 0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	478.40	503.60	+ 3.10	...
CLife Intl Fd	390.50	411.10	+ 9.10	...
Managed Fund	878.60	924.90	+12.70	...
Property Fund	562.70	592.30	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund	1233.20	1294.90	+19.31	...
Gilt Edged Fd	720.80	758.70	+ 6.20	...
Deposit Fund	360.40	379.40	+ 2.00	...
Investment Fd	532.90	559.50	+ 3.30	.
International	621.50	654.20	+14.50	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd,				
Milton Keynes MK9 2NU, 01908 606101				
Property Fund	172.90	182.00	...	...
Managed Fund	788.90	830.50	+10.70	..
Equity Fund	472.30	497.20	+ 5.20	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	357.00	375.80	+ 4.90	...
Ruby	207.50	218.50	+ 2.50	..
Emerald	163.60	172.20	+ 1.30	..
Equity	430.40	453.10	+ 5.30	...
Property	243.30	256.20	+ 0.30	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	238.80	251.40	+ 2.40	.
Indexed Secs	190.50	200.60	+ 2.60	.
Cash	203.10	213.80	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	335.90	353.60	+12.50	...
Far East	294.30	309.70	+ 4.40	.
International	286.00	301.10	+ 5.90	...
Special Sits	476.60	501.70	+ 3.70	...
Intl Income	384.90	405.10	+ 5.00	
European	434.20	457.10	+ 6.90	..
Japanese	110.70	116.60	+ 4.51	.
SE Asia	422.70	445.00	- 0.90	...
With Profits Reg	188.60	188.60	+ 0.20	
-do- Spec	188.60	198.60	+ 0.20	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	419.70	442.10	+ 5.00	.
Equity	534.30	562.50	+ 4.10	.
Property	229.60	241.70	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	311.40	327.80	+ 3.80	.
Index Linked	205.10	215.90	+ 3.00	...
Cash	278.80	293.50	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	424.60	447.00	+21.70	.
Far East Acc	299.90	315.70	+ 4.90	...
International Acc	363.70	382.90	+ 9.60	..
Special Sits	719.10	757.00	+ 7.60	
European Flex	635.70	669.20	+11.40	
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime,				
Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Gtdltd) Key I	290.95	..	+ 5.18	.
-do- Pacemaker I	381.74	..	+12.28	..
-do- Cash	218.73	230.24	+ 0.13	.
-do- Equity	691.32	727.71	+ 9.06	...
-do- Fxd Int	420.91	443.06	- 4.45	.
-do- Managed	491.97	517.86	+ 6.28	..
-do- Property	364.98	384.19	- 1.16	.
(Pensn) Cash Cap	215.56	226.91	+ 0.07	.
-do- Cash Inv	340.81	358.76	+ 0.16	..
-do- Equity Cap	£18.22	£19.17	+25.46	...
-do- Equity Inv	£29.80	£31.32	+42.27	...
-do- Fixed Cap	454.68	478.62	+ 5.36	...
-do- Fixed Inv	718.58	756.23	+ 8.99	.
-do- Index Cap	219.11	230.65	+ 3.90	...
-do- Index Inv	346.43	364.67	+ 6.41	.
-do- Mngd Cap	719.51	757.39	+ 9.51	..
-do- Mngd Inv	£11.37	£11.97	+15.94	..
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	989.33	.	- 1.01	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	113.15	...	- 0.81	.
Prime Managed	495.31	521.30	+ 4.87	..
Prime UK Equity	641.70	675.50	+ 5.90	.
Prime Int Equity	342.40	360.50	+ 7.10	...
Prime Property	253.60	267.00	+ 0.20	.
Prime Fxd Int	268.70	282.90	+ 1.90	.
Prime Index-Lnk	192.30	202.50	+ 2.50	
Prime Cash	222.90	234.70	+ 0.30	.
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1345.20	1416.00	+16.30	...
Equity II	2013.20	2119.10	+34.70	.
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ.				
01242 221311				
Life Funds				
UK With Pfts (58) ‡	111.50	..	+ 0.10	.
Secure (2) ‡	107.30	..	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	122.60	..	+ 0.60	..
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	120.70	...	+ 0.70	..
Adventurous (2) ‡	111.70	...	+ 0.90	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	108.60	.	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	296.40	312.00	+ 1.70	...
Managed S1	295.20	310.80	+ 1.30	...
Adventurous S1	233.40	245.70	+ 1.80	...
Managed (2)	198.60	209.10	+ 1.00	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	110.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	107.10	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	118.10	...	+ 0.70	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	119.30	...	+ 0.80	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	109.80	..	+ 1.00	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	108.40	...	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	378.40	392.60	+ 2.60	0.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
01722 413366				
Managed	387.90	408.40	+ 4.40	...
UK Equity	539.20	567.60	+ 3.90	...
Stewardship	487.30	513.00	+ 0.30	...
Overseas Equity	355.20	373.90	+ 7.70	...
North American	219.70	231.30	+ 7.90	...
Pacific Basin	176.20	185.50	+ 1.70	...
European	373.30	392.90	+ 6.20	..
Property	186.50	196.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	280.80	295.60	+ 2.50	...
Index Linked	192.20	202.40	+ 2.20	...
Cash	218.50	230.10	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	618.80	651.30	+ 7.50	...
Managed	861.30	906.60	+10.80	...
Deposit	373.30	392.90	+ 0.40	...
Property	528.70	556.50	+ 0.70	...
American	599.80	631.30	+23.90	...
Australian	655.10	689.50	+13.50	.
European	779.90	820.90	+15.10	...
Income Acc	953.80	1004.00	+ 9.40	..
-do- Dist	526.80	554.60	+ 6.60	4.69
International	373.10	392.70	+ 8.00	...
Japan Smaller	346.40	364.60	+ 6.90	...
Singapore & Mal	441.50	464.70	+ 2.00	...
Smaller Cos	530.20	558.10	+ 3.00	...
Tokyo Fund	542.00	570.50	-20.80	...
UK Equity	739.60	778.50	+ 6.30	...
CCM Vangd Mg	921.30	969.70	+ 9.30	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond				
EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	339.40	357.30	- 0.60	...
GT Plan Wrlde	583.80	614.60	+13.90	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex				
CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	817.90	817.90	+11.10	...
-do- Inv A	817.80	860.90	+11.60	...
UK Equity	522.20	549.80	+ 6.00	
Gilt Plus	230.90	243.10	+ 1.30	...
Managed	370.40	390.00	+ 5.40	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	259.30	272.90	+ 3.30	...
Unitised Profit	159.70	168.20	+ 0.30	.
UK Equity	379.10	397.90	+ 3.90	..
Fixed Int	225.80	237.60	+ 2.40	...
Index-Linked	188.60	198.40	+ 3.10	..
Cash Deposit	188.70	198.50	+ 0.10	..
Property	184.10	193.70	+ 0.20	..
International	205.80	216.50	+ 5.00	.
American	237.30	249.70	+ 8.60	...
Japan	193.40	203.50	+ 8.60	..
Japan Smllr Cos	198.10	208.40	+ 8.80	..
European	230.50	242.50	+ 3.60	...
Pacific Fund	325.30	342.40	+ 0.90	..
Conv Life	160.90	169.70	+ 1.80	.
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	591.70	622.80	+ 7.50	...
Managed Initial	371.50	391.10	+ 4.60	...
Equity Ord	955.30	1005.60	+ 9.00	..
Equity Init	599.80	631.40	+ 5.90	..
I-Linked Gilt Ord	229.80	241.90	+ 3.90	..
I-Linked Gilt Init	150.70	158.60	+ 2.40	...
Overs Equity Ord	446.60	470.10	+10.10	
Overs Equity Init	280.40	295.20	+ 6.30	.
Property Ord	285.80	300.90	+ 0.30	.
Property Init	170.40	180.80	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	327.90	347.20	+ 3.50	...
Fixed Int Init	207.20	218.10	+ 2.10	
Deposit Ord	224.90	236.70	+ 0.30	
Deposit Initial	141.20	148.60	.	.
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	883.40	920.30	...	.
Managed Initial	559.70	589.20	+ 7.80	.
-do- Acc	838.00	882.30	+12.25	.
Equity Initial	903	950.50	+10.60	...
-do- Acc	1352.80	1424.10	+16.50	..
Fixed Int Initial	486.20	511.80	+ 4.70	.
-do- Acc	728.40	766.80	+ 7.20	..
Intl Initial	513.70	540.80	+11.00	..
-do- Acc	769.70	810.20	+16.80	.
Nth Amer Initial	264.80	278.70	+ 8.10	..
-do- Acc	361	380	+11.20	.
Pacific Initial	213.20	224.40	+ 5.30	
-do- Acc	288	303.10	+ 7.30	...
Property Initial	184.50	194.20	.	.
-do- Acc	276.30	290.70		
Index-Lnkd Initl	174.10	183.30	+ 2.90	..
-do- Acc	237.40	249.90	+ 4.10	.
Deposit Initial	205.60	216.40	..	.
-do- Acc	308.10	324.30	+ 0.30	..
Euro Initial	133.30	139.20	+ 2.50	.
-do- Acc	166.70	175.40	+ 3.20	.
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	31.46	33.12	+ 0.29	..
Balanced	31.34	32.99	+ 0.35	...
Opportunity	32.34	34.04	+ 0.42	...
Deposit	25.70	27.05	+ 0.02	.
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	24.07	25.34	+ 0.25	..
Balanced S2	24.24	25.52	+ 0.40	..
Opportunity S2	24.13	25.40	+ 0.31	...
Deposit S2	23.80	25.05	+ 0.02	.
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs				
PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	209.30	220.30	+ 2.10	...
-do- Pens	269.90	284.10	+ 3.30	...
UK Equity	226.10	237.90	+ 1.50	...
-do- Pens	274.10	288.50	+ 2.30	...
International	174.10	183.20	+ 2.60	...
-do- Pens	193.80	204.00	+ 3.50	...
Deposit	151.00	158.90	+ 0.10	..
-do- Pens	183.60	193.20	+ 0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon				
0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	712.30	753.80	+ 1.70	...
British Fund	733.80	776.60	+ 6.10	...
International	650.90	688.80	+12.80	...
Dollar Fund	611.70	647.40	+19.60	...
Capital Fund	619.20	655.30	+ 8.10	...
Income Fund	906.80	959.60	+ 6.60	...
Property Series A	511.90	541.70	+ 2.20	4.90
Property Units	851.90	894.50	+ 4.10	...
Financial Fund	882.60	934.00	+19.30	...
Managed Ser A	684.00	723.90	+ 7.70	...
Managed Units	1234.70	1299.70	+13.90	...
High Yield Fund	812.00	859.30	+ 7.10	...
Money Series A	315.10	333.50	+ 0.30	...
Money Units	421.10	443.30	+ 0.30	..
Equity Fund	792.10	838.20	+ 9.80	...
Fixed Interest	433.80	459.10	+ 2.30	...
Indexed Secs	211.10	223.40	+ 2.20	...
European Fund	974.80	1031.60	+15.30	...
Natural Res	324.70	343.60	+ 6.00	...
Far East Fund	630.30	667.00	+ 4.40	...
Smaller Cos	705.00	746.10	+ 1.10	...
Special Sits	695.50	736.00	+ 8.80	...
Man Currency	280.80	297.20	+ 0.30	...
Japanese Tech	254.50	270.90	+ 9.60	...
US Smaller Cos	451.10	477.40	+ 1.90	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	269.50	283.70	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	72.00	75.60	+ 1.80	...
Fixed Interest	379.50	399.60	+ 5.70	...
Gold	82.50	87.00	+ 2.40	...
Managed	757.60	797.60	+ 9.20	...
Mnged Growth	239.30	252.00	+ 2.40	.
Mngd Opp	253.60	267.30	+ 2.10	..
Property	366.40	385.70	..	...
Residential Prop	116.00	122.20	..	...
TSB American	339.10	357.10	+ 9.10	..
TSB Brit Gwth	1122.30	1181.50	+ 8.40	.
TSB European	360.70	379.80	+ 4.60	...
TSB Income	524.50	552.30	+ 3.80	...
TSB Intl	498.20	524.60	+ 8.90	...
TSB Intl Inc	351.90	370.60	+ 1.40	...
TSB Pacific	446.80	470.40	+ 3.30	.
TSB Prem Inc	329.40	344.10	+ 2.50	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans,				
Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 45181				
Global Managed	707.00	744.20	+ 9.50	..
Global Property	316.00	332.60	...	..
Global Fixed Int	599.50	631.10	+ 4.60	...
Global Equity	773.40	816.20	+10.80	...
Global Cash	232.80	245.10	+ 0.20	...
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE				
01273 724000				
B Soc Lnkd Inv	134.80	141.90	...	..
-do- Acc	198.10	208.60	...	...
Brit Opps Int	181.90	191.50	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc	241.00	253.70	+ 2.20	...
Cash Initial	171.00	180.00	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	314.10	330.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity Initial	829.30	873.00	+ 8.80	...
-do- Acc	1523.60	1603.80	+16.30	...
Fixed Initial	381.00	401.10	+ 4.00	...
-do- Acc	700.10	737.00	+ 7.60	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	143.00	150.60	+ 2.60	..
-do- Acc	224.10	235.90	+ 3.70	..
Intl Initial	352.50	371.10	+ 8.50	...
-do- Acc	637.80	671.20	+15.30	...
Managed Initial	558.10	587.50	+ 7.40	...
-do- Acc	1025.30	1079.30	+13.90	...
Property Initial	227.10	239.10	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	417.30	439.30	+ 0.50	...
LINCOLN				
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge,				
Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	17225		+190.00	.
Property Units	2899	3051	- 7.00	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8121	8548	+91.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	814.70	857.50	+ 7.20	..
2nd High Inc Ac	781.00	822.10	+ 8.00	...
2nd Property Acc	260.80	274.50	+ 0.20	..
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	202.70	213.40	+ 1.20	.
2nd Mngd 1 Acc	564.80	594.30	+ 6.20	..
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	274.10	288.50	+ 3.10	..
2nd Deposit Acc	306.30	322.40	+ 0.30	..
2nd Gilt Acc	350.10	362.50	+ 2.70	..
2nd Amer Acc	941.40	990.90	+23.10	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	244.40	257.30	+ 0.10	...
2nd Index Acc	231.20	243.40	+ 2.60	..
2nd Far East Acc	423.70	446.00	+ 6.70	..
2nd Global Acc	193.10	203.30	+ 3.10	..
2nd Euro Acc	199.10	209.60	+ 1.60	..
2nd Japan Acc	142.80	150.00	+ 5.90	..
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	173.60	182.80	+ 0.00	..
2nd Cap Gth Acc	159.50	168.90	+ 1.30	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	557.40	586.90	+ 0.30	...
Managed	506.50	533.10	+ 6.40	.
American	562.50	592.10	+13.30	.
UK Equity Fd	592.10	623.20	+ 6.80	..
Japan	175.20	184.50	+ 6.10	...
Index-Lkd	206.80	217.60	+ 2.10	...
High Yield	1097	1150	+12.00	..
Money	438.10	461.10	+ 0.30	.
International	431.30	453.90	+ 7.60	.
Henderson Active	230.80	242.90	+ 1.90	..
Perpetual Active	385.60	405.80	+ 4.20	..
Growth Acc	792.10	833.75	+ 9.80	..
Gilt Edged	494.50	520.50	+ 4.00	..
European	182.90	192.50	+ 1.68	...
Far East	234.90	247.20	+ 0.50	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA				
0117 984 7777				
Equity I	£11.29	...	+ 3.00	...
Fixed Interest I	506.80	...	+ 0.30	...
Property I	405.40	...	+ 0.70	...
Deposit I	320.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed I	720.00	...	+ 3.60	...
Indexed Stock I	248.80	...	+ 4.20	...
International I	328.60	...	+ 4.10	...
Equity A I	261.30	...	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int A I	224.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Property A I	204.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Deposit A I	187.90	...	+ 0.10	...
Mixed A I	235.90	...	+ 1.10	...
Index Stock A I	194.30	...	+ 3.30	...
International A I	204.70	...	+ 2.50	...
Equity P I	981.60	...	+ 3.90	...
Fixed Int P I	689.70	...	+ 0.50	...
Property P I	365.20	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit P I	388.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed P I	682.80	...	+ 4.30	...
Index Stock P I	285.50	...	+ 4.90	...
International P I	388.90	...	+ 5.90	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap I	624.80	...	+ 6.40	...
-do- Acc I	1153.90	...	+12.70	...
Property Cap I	141.50	...	...	...
-do- Acc I	249.40	..	+ 0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap I	206.80	...	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc I	367.40	...	+ 3.00	...
Equity Cap I	379.60	...	+ 2.90	...
-do- Acc I	686.50	...	+ 5.80	...
Internatl Cap I	244.10	...	+ 3.20	...
-do- Acc I	436.50	...	+ 6.10	..
Gtd Deposit Cap I	160.60	...	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc I	283.00	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap I	384.90	...	+ 3.30	...
-do- Acc I	693.40	...	+ 6.50	...
Moneymaker Fd I	532.10	...	+ 3.30	...
Capital Growth I	2241.70	...	+21.30	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB				
01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	615.80	636.20	+22.20	...
Amer Rec Bond	674.80	708.60	+ 8.20	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	307.20	322.60	+ 5.00	...
Australasia Bd	323.80	340.10	+ 4.40	...
Commodity Bond	406.00	426.40	+ 5.50	...
Deposit Bond Acc	392.50	412.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1852.30	1945.00	+ 4.60	...
European Bd Acc	525.00	551.40	+15.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	957.80	1005.90	+13.00	..
Gilt Bond Acc	516.80	542.70	+ 6.20	...
Gold Bond Acc	171.60	180.30	+ 3.60	...
High Yield Bond	399.20	419.30	+ 4.00	..
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	234.30	246.10	+ 3.40	...
International Bd	894.60	939.40	+21.00	...
Japan Bond Acc	181.20	190.40	+ 4.20	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	179.60	188.70	+ 4.60	...
Managed Bonds	1073.20	1127.00	+ 0.20	...
Prop Bond Acc	495.00	519.90	+ 8.20	...
Rec Bond Acc	943.90	991.30	+ 3.40	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	376.00	394.90	+ 2.00	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing				
BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	285.90	300.90	+ 2.00	...
UK Equity Acc	435.40	458.40	+ 3.50	...
Special Sits	114.30	120.60	+ 0.70	...
Special Sits Acc	181.70	191.30	+ 1.10	...
North American	247.10	260.20	+ 9.90	...
N American Acc	376.50	396.40	+14.80	...
Pacific Basin	343.40	361.50	+ 3.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	523.20	550.80	+ 6.00	...
Fixed Interest	308.30	324.60	+ 2.20	...
Fixed Interest Acc	470.30	495.10	+ 3.40	...
Property	183.10	192.80	...	...
Property Acc	279.30	294.00	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	154.80	163.00	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Acc	236.10	248.60	+ 0.20	...
Managed	308.70	325.00	+ 3.80	..
Managed Acc	433.50	456.40	+ 4.90	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead				
Bristol BS1 2NH				
0117 9266 366				
Property	432.40	455.10	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	464.80	489.20	+ 5.90	...
Gilt Edged	686.00	722.10	+ 7.00	...
Interest Fund	434.00	456.80	+ 0.40	...
Managed Fd	586.90	617.70	+ 7.40	...
Intl Equity	706.50	743.60	+ 9.90	...
North American	291.40	306.70	+ 9.10	...
Far East	454.00	477.80	+ 3.70	..
Intl Currency	260.60	274.30	+ 1.30	..
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH				
0171 623 4200				
Managed	600.40	632.00	+ 5.70	..
UK Equity	830.90	874.60	+ 7.90	...
Overseas Equity	551.90	580.90	+ 9.90	..
Americas	553.10	582.20	+18.90	..
Far East	577.60	607.90	+ 7.40	...
Property	233.40	245.60	+ 0.20	..
Fixed Interest	451.30	475.00	+ 4.30	...
Indexed Gilt	261.10	274.80	+ 3.50	...
Deposit	236.80	249.20	+ 0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP				
01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1834.30	1930.70	+23.60	..
Equity Fund	4223.10	4446.00	+40.00	...
Property Fd	668.60	703.80	+ 0.70	..
Fixed Int Fd	703.70	740.70	+ 5.60	..
Deposit Fund	384.00	404.20	+ 0.40	..
Intl Fund	299.10	314.80	+ 6.50	
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA				
01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	376.20	396.90	+ 3.80	...
Fxd Interest Acc	283.00	298.60	+ 2.60	...
International Acc	298.10	314.50	+ 8.70	...
Managed Acc	263.40	277.90	+ 4.00	...
Property Acc	216.70	228.60	+ 0.30	...
Money Acc	167.80	172.10	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	215.10	227.00	+ 3.10	...
Japan Equity Acc	95.50	100.80	+ 4.80	...
N Amer Acc	229.40	242.00	+ 9.00	...
Pacific Acc	143.10	151.00	+ 2.80	...
European Acc	267.70	282.40	+ 2.60	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough				
PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	141.80	149.30	+ 0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	341.00	359.00	+ 0.40	...
Inv Equity	1588.40	1672.00	+13.50	...
Inv Managed	1059.10	1114.90	+12.60	...
Ret Managed	1234.20	1299.20	+14.30	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH				
0171 405 9222				
Managed	431.60	449.60	+ 0.68	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP				
0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	988.90	1041.00	+11.00	...
Equity Fund	2076.90	2186.30	+20.10	...
Intl Fund	761.30	801.40	+12.10	...
Fixed Interest	655.40	689.90	+ 4.50	...
Property Fund	491.00	516.90	+ 0.50	...
Cash Fund	397.10	418.00	+ 0.30	...
Pacific Basin	360.10	379.10	+ 3.30	...
N American Fd	399.60	420.70	+15.20	...
Euro Fund	376.80	396.70	+ 5.20	...
Balanced Fund	196.10	206.50	+ 2.20	...
Strategic Fund	213.50	224.80	+ 3.20	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough				
PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	928.10	...	...	...
-do- Acc	511.00	537.90	...	...
Op Prop	527.60	555.30	...	...
Op Equity	1296.60	1364.80	+ 8.00	...
Op High Yield	697.40	734.00	+ 6.70	...
Op Managed	995.20	1047.50	+10.20	...
Op Deposit	426.70	449.10	+ 0.40	...
Japan Smlr	177.90	187.20	- 0.70	...
Managed Gth	356.60	375.30	- 0.20	...
British	483.30	508.70	+ 7.00	...
Global Bond	124.90	131.40	- 0.90	...
Gold Share	88.00	92.60	- 0.60	...
Japan	318.10	334.80	+ 3.60	...
UK Smlr Cos	572.70	602.80	...	...
Mngd Growth	580.30	610.80	- 3.30	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS				
0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	478.30	503.40	+ 5.50	...
Equity Fund	709.10	746.40	+ 4.10	...
Property Fund	349.60	367.90	- 0.10	...
International	568.60	598.50	-11.30	...
Pacific Basin	279.60	294.30	+ 5.40	...
United States	383.50	403.60	+ 7.80	...
Gilt Fund	435.50	458.40	+ 4.30	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex				
RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	91.40	96.80	+ 0.70	2.38
Deposit Fund (2)	412.20	436.20	+ 0.40	6.52
Gilt Fund	609.90	645.40	+ 4.30	8.24
Global Equity Fd	281.40	297.80	+ 3.90	...
Property Fund (46)	121.80	128.90	...	7.30
AG Bond Fund	162.20	171.70	+ 1.30	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow				
0141 248 2323				
Equity	773.10	813.80	+ 7.70	...
Fixed Interest	426.10	448.60	+ 3.30	..
Index-Linked	220.60	232.30	+ 1.90	...
International	516.40	543.60	+ 7.50	...
Property	323.10	340.20	+ 0.30	...
Cash	193.50	203.70	+ 0.20	...
Managed	572.10	602.20	+ 5.80	..
Cap Gteed Bd	152.00	160.10	+ 1.80	...
95% Safeguard	100.80	...	+ 0.60	...
100% Safeguard	97.90	...	+ 0.30	...
Wealth Pres Cap	103.80	...	+ 1.00	...
Wealth Pres Inc	36.10	...	+ 0.80	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF				
0131 556 9101				
Cash	198.180	208.620	+ 0.16	...
Index-Linked	188.60	198.70	+ 2.40	...
Fixed Interest	213.40	224.70	+ 2.20	...
Mixed	324.20	341.40	+ 4.70	...
UK Equity	319.40	336.20	+ 4.00	...
International	309.20	325.50	+ 5.80	...
American	402.80	424.00	+15.50	..
Japan	189.50	199.50	+ 6.10	...
European	359.70	378.70	+ 4.10	...
Pacific	381.80	401.90	- 2.80	...
Technology	550.50	580.00	+15.40	...
Frgn Bd/Crcy	244.20	257.20	- 1.50	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE				
0131 225 2211				
Property	234.40	246.90	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	477.40	502.60	+ 2.10	..
American	360.90	380.00	+10.10	..
Pacific	350.20	368.80	+ 4.40	...
European	623.70	656.60	+ 3.00	...
Global Mgd	374.00	393.80	+ 4.30	...
Fixed Interest	276.60	291.30	+ 0.60	...
Index Linked	224.90	236.80	+ 1.10	...
Deposit	212.90	224.20	+ 0.20	...
Managed	359.10	378.10	+ 1.90	...
Worldwide	140.20	147.60	+ 2.30	...
Pen Worldwide	152.30	160.40	+ 3.10	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN				
0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2068.30	2129.20	...	...
Safety Fund	280.80	295.60	+ 3.10	...
Growth Fund	292.10	307.50	+ 3.10	...
Opportunity Fd	294.00	309.50	+ 4.40	...
Cash Fund	189.00	199.00	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	460.30	484.60	+ 6.00	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	240.70	253.40	+ 3.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	205.50	216.40	+ 2.70	...
International Fd	330.30	347.70	+ 6.60	...
North American	337.00	354.80	+10.30	...
Property Fund	131.10	138.10	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	324.70	341.80	+ 1.80	...
UK Smaller	347.10	365.40	+ 4.30	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA				
0131 556 9181				
Mixed	341.60	359.70	+ 3.10	...
Equity	382.30	402.90	+ 1.90	...
International	316.50	333.30	+ 7.20	...
Property	244.50	257.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	271.30	285.70	+ 3.70	...
Index Linked	207.20	218.20	+ 3.30	...
Cash	201.60	212.30	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1007.90	1072.30	+ 6.80	...
Cash Fund	367.50	387.30	+ 0.20	...
Property Fund	319.20	336.40	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund	1078.90	1147.40	+15.20	...
Fxd Interest Fund	555.30	585.20	+ 3.10	...
International	448.40	477.10	+10.90	...
High Income	930.60	990.10	- 0.50	...
Far East	588.50	626.10	+ 8.80	...
North American	772.80	822.20	+24.60	...
Special Sits	919.70	978.50	+ 2.30	...
Technology	1040.70	1107.20	- 0.70	...
Extra Income Fd	504.30	536.50	+ 1.70	...
Gilt Fund	539.30	573.80	+ 0.40	...
European	193.70	206.10	+ 3.60	...
Adventurous Mg	257.70	271.80	+ 3.90	...
Secure Mgd	180.10	189.80	+ 1.50	...
Equity Inc Dist	141.90	149.60	+ 0.70	4.03
Managed Dist	126.60	133.50	+ 0.90	4.77
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	426.20	453.50	+ 3.30	...
North America	477.40	507.90	+ 9.20	...
Far East Fund	581.20	618.40	+ 6.30	...
Global Managed	558.30	593.90	-13.10	...
Deposit Fund	248.10	261.20	+ 0.50	...
Prime Residential	141.80	149.30	+ 1.80	...
European Fund	350.90	373.30	+ 6.10	...
Fixed Interest	64.50	68.60	+ 0.80	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU				
0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1346.30	1346.30	+17.60	...
Inv Pol 2	1126.50	1185.90	+16.80	...
Inv Pol 3	1064.80	1120.90	+15.80	...
Inv Cash	344.50	362.80	+ 0.20	...
Mixed Fund	562.00	591.70	+ 4.00	...
Equity Fund	720.00	758.00	+ 1.30	...
Property Fund	269.30	283.50	+ 0.10	...
International Fd	569.60	599.70	+11.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	444.10	467.60	- 1.20	...
Indexed Stock Fd	229.10	241.20	+ 4.00	...
Cash Fund	249.00	262.20	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace,				
Southampton SO9 7BX				
01703 334411				
Managed Acc	481.60	506.90	+ 4.20	...
Equity Acc	602.10	633.70	+ 7.70	...
International Acc	366.70	386.00	+ 3.90	...
Property	239.90	252.50	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road,				
Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131-225 2552				
Cash	292.50	307.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1369.30	1441.40	+14.90	...
European	211.40	222.60	+ 4.70	...
Far East	173.90	183.10	+ 2.20	...
Fixed Interest	466.50	491.10	+ 0.20	..
Index Linked	241.90	254.30	+ 3.40	...
International	692.20	728.70	+14.20	...
Managed	893.40	940.50	+11.50	...
Nth American	205.60	216.50	+ 6.00	...
Property	397.60	418.60	+ 0.40	...
Pensions				
Cash	468.50	493.20	+ 0.50	...
Equity	2117.70	2229.20	+23.20	...
European	281.60	296.50	+ 7.70	...
Far East	138.00	145.30	+ 3.10	...
Fixed Interest	669.50	704.80	+ 0.10	...
Index Linked	343.30	361.40	+ 5.60	...
International	1086.10	1143.30	+30.80	...
Managed	1338.10	1408.60	+19.60	...
Nth American	279.80	294.60	+10.50	...
Property	576.10	606.50	+ 2.20	...
Stock Exchange	308.20	324.50	+ 4.30	...
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex				
01403 232323				
Managed Fund	868.00	913.70	+13.10	...
Equity Fund	1199.70	1262.90	+ 8.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	478.30	503.50	+ 4.60	...
Index-Linked Fd	368.00	387.40	+ 3.80	...
Property Fund	560.30	589.90	+ 0.30	...
International Fd	809.60	852.30	+30.90	...
N American Fd	397.60	418.60	+11.60	...
Far East Fund	256.10	269.60	+ 2.90	...
Deposit Fund	326.90	344.20	+ 0.40	...
Intnl Bd I	£109.50	...	- 0.30	...
Worldwide Bond	170.90	179.90	+ 1.00	...
European	249.60	262.80	+ 3.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	866.60	912.30	+ 3.90	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	592.10	623.40	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	655.30	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	606.40	...	+ 0.30	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	906.80	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	865.20	...	+ 0.80	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	484.80	...	+ 0.30	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	508.10	...	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd ‡	465.90	...	+ 6.70	...
Investment (A) ‡	445.60	...	+ 6.50	...
Equity ‡	1764.50	...	+11.90	...
Equity Acc ‡	1680.50	...	+11.30	...
Money Fund ‡	526.50	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	500.90	...	+ 0.50	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	761.70	...	+10.00	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	450.60	...	+ 4.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	450.60	...	+ 4.10	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1307.10	...	...	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	248.10	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ				
Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc †	1889.30	...	- 5.60	...
Managed Acc †	1080.00	...	+ 4.90	...
Equity Account ‡	1588.10	...	+40.70	...
Mngd Fund Acc	477.80	503.00	- 2.30	...
Equity Fund Acc	685.70	721.80	+ 4.80	...
Prop Fund Acc	284.70	299.70	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	365.60	384.90	+ 5.80	...
Money Fund Acc	240.60	253.20	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	229.40	241.50	+ 2.20	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	2400.90	...	+ 6.80	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1115.70	1174.40	+ 3.30	...
Pens Guarantee	300.00	315.80	+ 0.40	...
Pens Equity	450.90	474.70	+ 2.70	...
Pens Property	328.70	346.00	- 1.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	357.70	376.60	+ 6.10	...
Pens Intl	293.00	308.40	...	...
Pens Money	265.00	279.00	+ 0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	227.70	239.70	+ 5.10	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL				
0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1103.20	1161.30	+ 8.60	...
Property Acc	415.80	437.70	+ 5.10	...
Equity Acc	1910.70	2011.30	+ 5.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	482.10	507.50	+ 3.10	...
Cash Acc	340.30	358.30	+ 0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	545.80	574.60	+15.00	...
Japan Acc	229.30	241.40	+ 7.20	...
Pacific Acc	408.50	430.10	- 3.80	...
Far Eastern Acc	823.80	867.20	- 2.70	...
International Acc	678.20	713.90	+10.30	...
Distribution Fund	310.90	327.30	+ 2.50	5.73
European	236.90	249.40	+ 3.80	...
Defrd Dist	205.20	216.10	+ 2.00	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE				
01264 345678				
Managed Fund	351.90	370.50	+ 3.60	...
Property Fund	233.80	246.20	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	258.50	272.20	+ 2.30	...
Money Fund	218.50	230.10	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund	469.60	494.40	+ 5.20	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire				
01952 292929				
Managed Bond	892.00	939.90	+10.10	...
Money Fund	346.20	364.40	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	833.10	876.90	+ 8.40	...
Fixed Interest	329.20	346.50	+ 3.10	...
Property Fund	398.00	418.90	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	732.70	772.10	+ 4.20	...
Income	940.50	991.00	+15.80	...
International Gth	733.40	772.80	+17.30	...
Capital Fund	827.70	872.20	+ 5.30	...
Recovery Fund	633.40	667.40	+ 7.90	...
Japan & General	207.40	218.50	-10.10	..
Formerly Aetna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	19.70	20.74	+ 0.02	...
Bear	24.39	25.67	+ 0.30	...
Owl	27.61	29.06	+ 0.22	...
Bull	22.97	24.18	+ 0.23	...
Stag	24.76	26.06	+ 0.34	...
Gilt Edged	21.83	22.98	+ 0.23	...
Deposit	17.06	17.96	+ 0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	27.57	29.02	+ 0.03	...
Bear	35.54	37.41	+ 0.33	...
Owl	39.74	41.83	+ 0.40	...
Bull	31.20	32.84	+ 0.38	...
Stag	33.59	35.35	+ 0.58	...
Gilt Edged	28.70	30.21	+ 0.27	...
Deposit	22.71	23.91	+ 0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund ‡		755.93	+ 7.29	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	462.22	486.55	+ 3.51	...
N Amer Equity	389.39	409.88	+11.26	...
Far East Equity	410.76	432.38	+ 9.40	...
Fixed	347.54	365.83	+ 3.61	...
Cash Deposit	223.46	235.24	+ 0.17	...
Property	169.73	178.66	- 0.30	...
Special Opp	477.90	503.08	+ 0.82	...
Managed	397.61	418.54	+ 4.02	...
Index-Linked Fd	217.72	229.18	+ 4.47	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	750.80	787.80	+10.10	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	438.20	461.20	- 4.80	...
Life Equity Acc	1104.90	1158.40	+14.50	...
Life Money Acc	326.00	343.10	+ 0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	982.40	1030.80	+13.10	...
Life Intl Acc	573.60	601.30	+ 9.30	...
Life High Inc Acc	1025.50	1076.00	+15.80	...
Life Property Acc	268.20	282.30	+ 0.70	...
Brewin Equity	902.20	949.60	+ 2.60	...

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

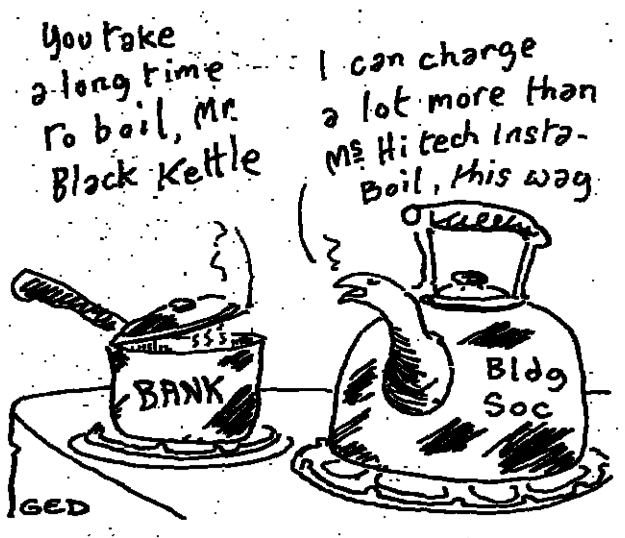
Clearance delay costs money

From Mr M. I. Hutchinson

Sir, Just imagine a world where you could access your deposit/current accounts making prompt transfers of funds between them to maximise the interest earnings ... The perception of faster settlement and automation of financial transactions — supported both through increasingly sophisticated investors and electronic access to accounts via telephone banking and the Internet — is very often no more than an illusion.

My wife operates a Chelsea Classic Account. Much is right with this account, but one major irritation is the ten to 12 calendar days required for cheque deposit funds to become available for subsequent cheque-writing.

She recently posted a deposit. Six days later she posted two cheque payments (to be drawn against the funds deposited). These payments bounced, costing her £20 from the payees, who passed on the incremental administrative charges. A third cheque posted three days after the initial deposit cost another £15.


You take a long time to boil, Mr Black Kettle
I can charge a lot more than Ms Hi tech Insta-Boil, this way
BANK
Bldg Soc
GED

She wrote to the chairman of the Chelsea who, disappointingly but perhaps not surprisingly, offered her no more than explanations of the account's terms and conditions. Apparently, a distinction must be made between the typical three to four-day cheque clearance within the banking world and the longer "clearance period" operated by several building societies. This latter period allows for possible subsequent "receipt of notification of dishonour from their respective banks", whereas banks routinely receive notification of clearance within the mainstream of the UK clearing bank system.

The lessons are clear. Higher interest earnings offered on some accounts can easily be offset by unexpected charges if customers do not have a full understanding of their accounts' operations. Secondly, building societies are not always the good guys when compared with banks.

Yours faithfully,
M. HUTCHINSON,
The Arches Barn,
11, Lower Road,
Woolavington,
Nr Bridgwater, Somerset.

Insurance companies and terminal bonuses on endowment policies

From Mr L.K. Brown

Sir, A great deal has been made of the "maturity value of endowment policies" problem. A major obstacle of determining the potential final outcome of an endowment policy and, indeed, in attempting to determine the benefit or otherwise of a move, change or termination of an endowment is the fact that insurers will not provide a forecast of the possible "terminal bonus".

Can anybody provide a logical explanation, rather than a "legal reason" why insurance companies are either unable or unwilling to provide a projection of what the potential/possible/probable "terminal bonus" might be.

Since this portion of the policy can ultimately "make or break" the investment, it would seem perfectly logical to expect a meaningful projection of both the annual and terminal bonuses. Annual bonus projections are permitted, within given limits and restrictions. Why is it apparently impossible to do the same for the terminal bonus, especially on those policies which have already been in place for some time, and therefore have a history?

With the wealth of statistical data available today, alongside current technology and computing power, there is no reason why this particular portion of such an investment should be excluded from the general ability to provide a meaningful forecast.

I have yet to secure any reasonable explanation from any source as to why the current position should be so. All that is given is waffle, hiding behind the façade of "we are not permitted to provide those figures ...", without any reasonable or logical explanation as to why. What does the insurance industry have to hide? Hiding behind "policy" or "the law" without being able to justify that policy, or provide a logical explantion behind the law is a sure sign that something is wrong!

Perhaps this is where our conversion "bonuses" will be coming from!

Yours faithfully,
LEE BROWN,
28 Highfield Road,
Flackwell Heath,
High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire.

Service lacking

From Mr R. Breckman

Sir, Not once but twice in the past month I have asked Lloyds Bank to make a transfer from my deposit account to cover a cheque payable on my current account. Twice it has failed to carry out my instructions. This has meant my account going into overdraft, with the inevitable interest and charges, apologies and cancellation.

I am now told the bank has no facilities to effect such a simple monitoring procedure. Whatever happened to service? Why are the banks so arrogant as to assume we do not need it?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
Breckman & Company
Chartered Accountants,
49 South Molton Street, W1.

Vote on Halifax conversion was made with incomplete knowledge

From Mrs J. Champness

Sir, You can imagine my surprise when I read your report on overseas members of the Halifax Building Society (February 1) who would not benefit from the forthcoming conversion of the society.

This told me that Dutch residents were excluded from the bonus because of "onerous local laws regulating shares" which made it "not worth paying out to a small number of members", while others living in places as diverse as United Arab Emirates and Singapore would benefit. I have never been informed by the Halifax that, as a resident of Holland, I am not eligible for the conversion payout.

I am particularly angry because the society sent the voting papers to me, which I duly completed and returned. Consequently, I believe that I was misled, as I made my decision based on incomplete information.

My vote would certainly have gone the other way, as I was a reluctant "yes" vote in the first place.

When I telephoned the Halifax, I was initially told that they knew nothing about the exclusion of Dutch residents.

I persisted and finally received a confirmation from the conversion department that we would be left out.

Although it is possible to change your address to one in the UK before conversion, so qualifying for a payout, it would not be possible for me to make such an alteration as I would be resident in Holland on the conversion date. Furthermore, as my interest is paid gross, I can hardly claim that I live anywhere else.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH CHAMPNESS,
Jan van Crieckenbeeklaan 6,
5671 ED Nuenen,
The Netherlands.

Tax assessments

From Mr S. E. Boucher

Sir, I can support the claim made by Mr L. How (Weekend Money letters, February 1) that half the income tax assessments issued by the Inland Revenue are wrong. In the past six years, I have received only one correct assessment. This year one of my sources of income has been taxed twice, once in a Schedule E assessment and once in a Schedule D assessment, notwithstanding that I sent a certificate of tax paid with my annual return.

Yours faithfully,
S. BOUCHER,
60 Old Roselyon Crescent,
St Blazey, Par, Cornwall.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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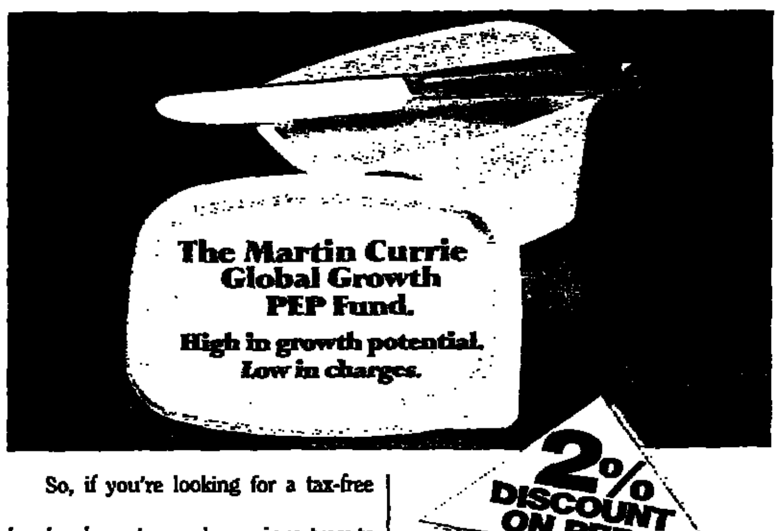
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For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	724.10	770.40	+14.00	2.24
General Inc	604.50	643.10	+11.70	2.24
UK Growth Acc	501.90	534.00	+ 8.10	2.39
UK Growth Inc	324.80	345.60	+ 5.20	2.39
Higher Inc Acc	897.60	954.90	+11.00	3.75
Higher Inc Inc	478.20	508.80	+ 6.00	3.75
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	218.80	231.10	+ 1.90	5.33
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.80	101.10	+ 0.80	5.33
Nth America	379.40	403.70	+ 6.70	
Europe	395.70	421.00	+ 9.50	0.03
Brit Growth	99.27	105.60	+ 1.70	2.49
Brit Fndmntls Acc	126.60	134.70	+ 1.10	4.31
Brit Fndmntls Inc	84.53	90.94	+ 0.70	4.31
Global Opps	105.80	112.60	+ 2.80	...
Balanced Acc	67.06	71.35	+ 0.94	2.36
Balanced Inc	62.62	66.62	+ 0.87	2.36
Japan Acc	37.76	40.18	+ 2.21	...
Pac Basin Acc	409.80	436.00	- 3.50	0.00
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.50	144.80	+ 1.70	6.57
High Inc Equity	196.70	210.40†	+ 2.10	4.52
Worldwide Bond	270.90	287.30†	+ 3.10	4.66
American Growth	437.30	467.30†	+22.60	0.36
Asian Pacific	340.20	363.90	+ 3.90	0.39
Assets & Earnings	326.00	348.70	+ 3.20	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	204.00	218.30	+ 2.30	0.72
Extra Inc	43.09	45.84†	+ 0.06	7.90
General	290.60	308.10†	+ 1.80	2.82
Global Opps	75.02	79.81	+ 1.67	0.50
Japan	89.15	95.35	+ 3.56	
Managed Inc	49.72	52.89†	+ 0.42	4.25
Mastertrust	176.70	189.00	+ 3.00	1.27
US Emerging Cos	201.50	214.40	+ 2.50	
Ethical	89.12	94.81	+ 1.88	1.81
International	141.50	150.50	+ 3.60	0.65
Dividend & Growth	72.55	77.18†	+ 0.64	4.35
Global Gwth & Sec	74.61	79.77	+ 0.19	2.33
Latin America	79.79	84.88	+ 4.14	0.46
Capital Reserve	147.70	147.70	+ 0.20	4.74
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	*2552.00*	*2652.00*	+26.00	.
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Asia Inc & Growth	66.77	68.28	+ 2.44	0.14
Emerging Mkts	79.71	83.02	+ 1.72	0.04
European	163.40	169.90†	+ 2.20	
Extra Income #	51.40	54.09	+ 0.43	6.01
Far East Emg Ecn	131.20	137.70	+ 0.40	0.45
Fixed Interest #	26.46	27.52†	+ 0.24	9.01
Fund Inv Tst #	165.40	173.50†	+ 3.16	9.57
Japan	156.10	162.30	+ 8.90	.
Latin American	69.56	72.39	+ 3.73	0.67
Pacific	81.85	85.42	+ 0.48	0.30
Property Share	80.11	84.90†	+ 0.28	2.09
UK Emerging Cos	74.05	80.04†	- 1.06	1.20
UK Growth	59.55	62.82	+ 0.44	1.89
Aber World Port #	86.59	88.42	+ 0.65	2.81
Ethical	62.37	65.67	- 0.03	2.06
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	51.04	51.09	+ 0.16	7.25
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 258 5860				
Bessel Property #	99.08	105.49†	+ 0.80	5.39
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	99.54	105.61	+ 0.87	2.14
Income Builder Inc	86.37	91.88	+ 0.97	4.16
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	306.90	328.00	+ 0.80	2.83
Capital	554.30	592.50	+ 1.20	1.06
Balanced	890.80	952.20	+ 3.70	2.56
Accumulator	1729.00	1846.00	+10.00	1.69
Income Trusts				
American Income	70.95	75.030†	+ 2.22	2.13
High Income	495.60	529.60	+ 2.30	4.03
Equity Income	276.50	295.50†	+ 1.30	3.78
High Yield	300.30	320.90	+ 1.00	3.74
Govt Securities	36.04	38.060	+ 0.14	5.74
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	247.50	263.90	+ 6.80	0.04
European Growth	60.91	65.050†	+ 0.89	0.06
International	194.40	207.70†	+ 2.40	0.11
Japan	158.20	169.10	+ 5.60	
Pacific	402.00	429.70†	+ 2.20	..
Secs of America	662.90	705.60	+19.30	0.11
Worlds Asset Val	57.38	61.330†	+ 0.61	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	696.20	744.20	+ 3.10	1.84
Com & Gilt	53.15	56.810†	+ 0.68	3.73
Smaller Cos	222.90	238.20†	+ 0.80	0.96
2nd Smaller Cos	212.20	226.80	+ 0.90	0.81
Recovery	180.10	192.50	+ 1.40	1.47
Met Min & Cdty	168.30	179.90	+ 3.90	0.17
Oseas Earnings	458.50	490.10†	+ 2.80	0.99
Technology	231.30	247.20	+ 4.80	.
UK Special Sits	644.20	688.60	+ 7.50	0.91
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cctrcd Def Pens	125.00	129.80	.	0
Foundtn Persl Pens	73.28	76.13		0
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 680 0093				
Capital	92.83	98.76†	+ 0.92	0.76
International	70.01	74.40	+ 0.37	.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	366.50	390.80	+ 2.80	
Bond	122.80	129.20†	+ 1.40	6.32
Brit Smlr Cos	120.80	128.50†	+ 0.50	1.74
Conv & Gen #	69.82	74.06†	+ 0.13	5.20
Europe	305.60	324.40	+ 5.80	0.36
Euro Smlr Cos	130.80	139.00	+ 1.00	0.57
Income Gwth	404.90	430.70	+ 8.30	4.35
Japan	268.20	285.10	+16.00	.
Latin American	102.50	109.08	+ 6.10	0.60
Pacific	122.10	129.90	+ 1.60	0.94
UK Smlr Cos	*60.59*	*64.46†*	*+ 0.47*	*1.23*
Japan Fd	524.10	540.10†	+21.80	.
Mngd Fd	215.00	228.20	+ 3.20	2.62
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	403.60	426.90	+ 8.60	0.84
Capital Gwth	140.20	148.20	+ 3.00	2.89
Wwide Opps	239.30	253.10	+ 4.60	0.87
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	461.30	490.80	+ 2.10	2
European Bd Inc	98.95	102.50†	+ 0.50	5.77
Exempt	98.99	96.80	+ 0.49	2.52
500	536.90	577.30	+ 0.60	2.09
General	354.40	377.00	+ 2.20	2.11
Property	253.80	272.30	+ 0.70	4.93
Trustee	247.10	262.80†	+ 2.50	2.18
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.60	100.60†	+ 0.10	5.87
Distribution Inc #	119.50	120.10	+ 1.00	5.82
Extra Income #	149.10	159.00	+ 1.90	4.39
Gilt & Fxd Int	61.36	63.25	+ 0.69	7.46
Income #	628.10	669.90†	+ 5.40	4.38
Income Builder #	73.97	78.67	+ 0.34	4.96
Intl Income	76.32	81.19†	+ 1.57	2.23
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	154.93	164.80†	+ 0.60	1.72
FTSE 100	110.60	117.40	+ 1.40	2.42
Leisure	187.00	199.40	+ 2.70	1.06
Recovery	535.40	571.10	+ 2.50	2.28
Smlr Cos Inc	63.44	67.67	+ 0.22	2.18
Special Sits	442.60	470.90	+ 1.90	1.79
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	199.50	211.10	+10.00	0.29
F East Gwth Acc	306.30	325.80	- 0.10	0.25
Far East Gwth	181.70	193.30		0.25
Euro Gwth Inc	205.30	217.20	+ 4.70	0.55
-do- Accum	223.30	236.30	+ 5.20	0.56
Japan	112.20	118.80	+ 5.50	...
-do- Accum	113.50	120.10	+ 5.50	
Japan Spec Sits	53.33	56.49	+ 2.67	
Worldwide	205.40	215.00†	+ 5.60	0.37
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	152.40	161.30	+ 5.60	
Asian Smllr Cos	158.30	169.30	- 0.90	
Convertibles	62.38	66.44	+ 0.33	4.60
Eastern	309.00	331.00	- 2.50	0.39
Equity Income #	108.00	115.40†	+ 1.00	4.23
European Growth	423.70	428.30	+ 6.90	0.70
Europe	401.70	427.30	+ 6.30	0.80
German Growth	92.23	97.72	+ 1.77	0.52
Global Bond	72.12	75.84†	+ 0.71	6.20
Global Growth	151.80	161.10	+ 3.30	0.40
Japan Growth	161.70	171.80	+ 6.80	
Japan Smllr	116.30	123.40	+ 1.10	
Korea Trust	51.80	56.14	+ 0.32	.
Portfolio	158.30	168.90	+ 2.30	2.00
-do- Accum	279.90	320.20	+ 4.30	2.00
UK Growth	118.60	127.10	+ 0.60	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	108.00	116.90	+ 0.50	1.90
Select Managers	93.40	100.10	+ 0.79	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	94.85	100.90†	+ 4.63	.
Special Opps Inc	67.79	72.12†	+ 1.87	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6009				
Balanced Growth	157.27	166.42	+ 1.93	1.29
-do- Accum	183.07	193.72	+ 2.24	1.29
Smaller Cos	174.90	185.08	+ 1.76	0.48
Higher Yield #	60.99	64.54†	+ 0.61	3.85
American Gth Inc	113.67	120.29†	+ 2.88	
European Growth	181.41	191.97	+ 7.19	0.03
-do- Accum	185.05	195.82	+ 7.33	0.03
Mngd Pflio Inc	57.74	61.07	+ 1.18	1.20
-do- Accum	59.51	62.97	+ 1.23	1.20
Int Spec Sits	184.15	194.87	+ 3.92	
Pacific Gth	163.88	173.41	- 0.36	
UK General #	105.54	111.58†	+ 1.50	2.86
-do- Accum #	114.52	121.18	+ 1.62	2.86
Japan	46.11	48.90†	+ 2.48	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	103.64	107.40	- 0.16	8.09
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	62.67	65.53	+ 0.16	6.29
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Eastern	198.80	208.60	+ 2.40	1.75
UK Growth	229.30	241.30†	+ 2.50	2.05
UK Income	162.40	171.00	+ 2.30	4.01
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	248.80	263.60†	+ 4.10	1.50
-do- Income Dist	136.90	145.00	+ 2.00	3.48
-do- Accum	447.90	474.70	+ 6.60	3.46
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.62	43.75†	+ 0.47	6.22
Growth Units	277.10	296.10	+ 3.40	1.98
Bond	184.80	194.40	+ 2.00	6.40
Intl Growth	242.30	258.00	+ 7.10	0.16
North American	286.00	304.00	+12.40	0.00
Far East	317.20	339.30	+ 3.30	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	250.90	268.30	+ 3.70	1.07
European	102.80	109.10	+ 1.40	0.46
Japanese Growth	36.62	38.94	+ 1.61	
High Income	241.00	257.20	+ 2.70	3.95
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0181 831 7433 Enq 0181 831 7433 Dlg 0181 831 7455				
American & Gen	241.50	256.60	+ 7.60	..
European Inc	102.70	109.00	+ 1.20	0.30
Smaller Cos (4-1)	119.30	127.00	+ 1.70	1.34
Growth	592.80	630.70	+ 8.40	1.97
Income & Growth #	499.60	531.50†	+ 8.10	3.49
-do- Accum #	765.00	814.90	+14.00	3.49
Japan & Gen	53.23	56.45	+ 2.97	..
Master Portfolio	£131.51	£136.99†	+262.00	1.68
-do- Accum	£162.94	£169.73	+251.00	1.68
Special Sits	136.10	144.80†	+ 1.60	1.95
High Yield	£16.16	£16.69	+22.00	3.94
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	107.78	114.89†	+ 1.04	2.14
American Portfolio	136.10	144.45	+ 3.61	1.01
European Portfolio	149.28	158.84	+ 2.38	0.58
High Income	53.65	56.81†	+ 0.60	7.31
Japanese Portfolio	53.84	57.11†	+ 2.29	..
Pacific Portfolio	168.53	179.00	+ 1.72	0.75
UK Equity	104.92	111.93	+ 0.76	3.19
UK Equity & Bd	62.03	65.71	+ 0.65	6.13
UK Smlr Cos	58.26	60.18	+ 0.05	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	620.42	682.42	+ 5.10	4.11
Fxd In Sec	161.60	162.24	+ 1.87	6.81
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	809.41	821.65	+ 1.82	4.19
Investment Acc	637.79	638.35	+ 0.55	...
Fixed Int Inc	130.84	131.26	+ 2.48	8.03
Fixed Int Acc	243.75	244.78	+ 4.85	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Buckmaster Intl	88.43	93.24	- 0.68	6.37
Buck Glo-Tech	47.23	51.22	+ 1.24	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	200.84	210.90	+ 9.68	0.42
City Fin Assets	83.39	87.57	+ 0.40	1.75
City Fin Intl	89.11	93.57	- 0.79	0.14
Friars Hse Cap	323.14	343.77†	+ 2.07	2.38
Buckley Wrld Gth	144.59	153.28	+ 2.73	..
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	60.90	63.05	+ 1.27	3.25
Shaw Utilities	65.61	67.84	- 0.16	6.61
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.04	62.64	+ 1.32	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	87.66	93.25	+ 2.18	...
Dragon Growth	74.20	79.46	- 0.45	0.25
Equity High Inc	98.51	105.54	+ 1.38	3.79
-do- Accum	143.51	153.75	+ 2.01	3.79
Extra Income Inc	27.51	28.06†	+ 0.28	6.75
Extra Income Acc	30.71	32.34	+ 0.30	6.75
European Gwth	68.03	72.18	+ 1.23	0.44
Evergreen	32.33	34.57	+ 0.24	..
General Equity	114.98	121.99	+ 1.24	2.57
Japan Growth	38.48	40.94	+ 2.29	...
Pedigree Gwth	68.98	73.99	+ 0.48	2.08
Pal Sm Cos Inc	41.02	44.11	+ 0.19	0.99
-do- Accum	43.73	47.02	+ 0.21	0.99
Retirement Inc #	30.09	32.04	+ 0.39	5.61
Special Sits	50.94	54.77	+ 0.82	2.21
UK & Overseas	63.48	67.33	+ 1.56	0.45
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	74.84	77.75†	+ 0.96	3.88
Capital	89.84	93.58†	+ 1.18	2.45
High Income	53.90	56.14†	+ 0.72	6.43
Top 50	61.59	64.16†	+ 1.23	2.38
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	210.64	219.44	+ 2.59	4.19
Long Gilt	45.98	47.87†	+ 0.83	5.83
Monthly Inc Plus	52.89	55.10	+ 0.91	8.13
Preference Share	50.70	52.82†	+ 1.05	7.38
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	153.57	159.99†	+ 2.85	6.33
Managed Fund	80.36	83.72	+ 0.91	2.65
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	57.71	60.12	+ 0.54	1.58
-do- Accum	68.21	71.06	+ 0.64	1.58
UK & General	107.12	111.59	+ 1.04	2.70
-do- Accum	140.95	146.84	+ 1.38	2.70
UK Growth	215.91	224.93	+ 2.32	1.25
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	229.98	239.59	+ 2.50	0.69
Far Eastern Gth	133.18	138.66	+ 1.16	0.02
Global Bond	75.85	79.02	+ 0.31	6.27
Japan Growth	92.07	95.92	+ 4.16	...
North Amer Gth	271.35	282.69	+12.65	..
Oriental Growth	87.71	91.37	- 0.40	0.25
Worldwide Growth	75.94	79.11	+ 1.99	..
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.87	92.87	+ 0.86	5.23
Homemaker Fund	95.22	101.31†	+ 1.11	1.49
Quilter Fund	164.86	175.40†	+ 1.48	2.05
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	37.69	40.25†	+ 0.27	3.90
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	193.40	205.70	+ 3.70	1.27
Income	76.73	81.63†	+ 0.50	4.25
European	80.62	85.77	+ 1.07	0.59
Recovery	196.30	208.85	+ 0.10	2.27
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 383 9494				
Equity Dist	1043.40	1058.70	..	3.20
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 680 370				
Fellowship Tst	118.80	126.30	+ 1.30	1.09
Income #	303.80	323.10	+ 2.80	4.34
-do- Accum #	810.80	862.50	+ 7.40	4.34
Smaller Cos	248.70	264.50†	- 0.40	0.90
-do- Accum	309.90	329.60	- 0.50	0.90
Gilt Portfolio	107.80	114.80†	+ 0.70	1.24
High Inc Port #	88.97	94.64	+ 1.10	4.03
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1694				
Global Sm Cos	1707.50	1744.00†	+ 7.80	.
UK Small Cos	2344.20	2440.90†	+10.30	2.71
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	244.10	258.90	- 1.10	3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	185.40	197.20	+ 0.70	1.64
UK High Inc Inc	191.80	204.00	+ 0.70	3.49
-do- Accum	263.00	279.70	+ 1.10	3.49
UK Pref & FI Inc	61.88	65.67	+ 0.86	5.63
Euromkt Opps	108.70	115.60	+ 1.50	0.87
UK Smlr Cos #	77.41	82.35†	+ 0.15	0.97
Extra Income Inc	51.34	54.61†	+ 0.76	7.07
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	23.65	25.13	+ 0.16	5.57
Equity Income #	151.00	160.40	+ 1.30	3.74
European	68.73	72.70†	+ 1.94	6.55
Financial	63.81	67.80	+ 1.53	1.33
Growth & Inc #	306.90	328.20†	+ 2.40	2.67
High Dist #	191.20	203.30	+ 1.70	4.18
International	448.10	476.10	+ 8.20	0.11
Int Cap Inc	111.00	118.50†	+ 2.20	2.29
Latin American	36.16	38.42	+ 1.64	..
Pacific	87.20	92.65	+ 0.36	..
Prof High Inc	23.36	24.82†	+ 0.21	7.25
Tokyo	177.70	188.10	+ 2.90	..
UK Smaller Cos	270.20	287.10	+ 1.40	1.04
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Jap Smlr Co	318.10	337.18	+ 1.00	
Nth Amer	478.30	506.80	+20.80	0.58
UK Inc & Gth	269.50	287.60	+ 2.80	2.58
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BB Director Dlgs	126.00	134.76	+ 1.08	1.04
Growth Acc	287.81	306.41	+ 4.45	0.63
Income	627.34	670.95†		5.92
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	235.20	250.20	+ 4.20	0.93
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	97.81	102.96	+ 1.28	1.56
Ethical Tst	49.82	52.44†	+ 0.94	0.84
Far Eastern	301.60	317.47	+ 5.02	1.44
High Income	152.49	160.52	+ 1.10	4.49
UK Index Trckng	55.78	58.72†	+ 0.42	2.93
Intl Growth	148.30	156.11	+ 2.99	0.53
North American	164.17	172.81	+ 3.66	1.59
Pelican	155.05	163.21	+ 0.76	2.81
Smaller Cos	78.80	82.95	+ 0.33	2.60
Special Sits	97.24	102.36	- 0.45	2.92
Tst of Inv Tsts	226.67	238.60†	+ 3.14	1.19
For Exmoor see Laurence Keen				
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	103.22	110.62	+ 2.12	
Fd of Inv Tsts	55.81	59.53†	+ 0.73	0.49
High Income #	41.12	44.07†	+ 0.33	10.44
[illegible]	47.93	52.10	+ 7.43	
Zero Preference	45.58	48.36	+ 0.17	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Ts	103.00	109.50†	+ 0.80	2.48
United Charities	352.10	374.50	+ 6.40	1.99
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	.	5.70
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	27.10	28.10†	+ 0.19	5.20
Strategic Inc	28.29	29.58	+ 0.31	5.75
Income Funds				
High Income	28.25	29.65†	+ 0.27	5.20
Income Plus	143.60	152.70	+ 1.10	3.92
European Income	54.08	57.47†	+ 0.46	2.37
UK Div Gth	34.64	36.84	+ 0.41	2.03
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	64.67	69.20	+ 0.97	
American	371.80	395.50	+19.50	
Amer Spec Sits	199.50	213.23	+ 5.80	.
Japan Smaller Cos	24.45	26.10	+ 0.54	
European	254.30	270.40	+ 4.40	0.50
European Opps	89.63	95.27	+ 2.28	0.02
Global Pav	34.96	37.18	+ 0.62	0.30
UK Growth	133.90	142.40	+ 1.20	1.37
Growth & Inc	195.50	207.90	+ 3.30	2.73
Intl PEP	52.52	55.95	+ 1.29	0.98
Japan Spec Sits	67.56	71.64†	+ 2.71	.
Japan	153.50	162.80	+ 9.40	
Managed Intl	383.10	407.10	+14.80	0.48
Moneybuilder	69.95	74.38	+ 1.21	
Recovery	67.14	71.37	+ 0.64	1.51
South E Asia	194.30	208.00	- 3.10	0.83
Special Sits	798.30	848.50	+ 7.20	0.52
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	117.84	117.84	+ 0.10	5.70
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	157.70	160.10	+ 0.60	1.49
Finsbury Pf Inc #	102.10	104.02	+ 0.90	5.97
Cap Plds	170.90	172.60†	+ 4.20	1.29
General Opps	150.40	151.90	- 2.20	3.38
Growth Inc	40.41	40.81	+ 0.54	1.29
Private Portfolio	511.50	519.30	+ 1.50	1.15
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Int 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	159.10	169.00	- 0.50	0.17
Emrg Asian	135.00	145.60	+ 0.50	.
High Income	22.70	24.21	+ 0.34	9.29
UK Income #	120.60	128.60	- 1.10	4.13
US Smaller Cos	435.00	463.90	+ 0.90	
For Foster & Braithwaite see Quilter				
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	85.27	90.75	+ 3.37	
-do- Accum	85.27	90.75	+ 3.37	
Amer Smlr Cos	684.10	732.30	+ 5.10	...
-do- Accum	699.40	748.60	+ 5.10	
Capital Tst	426.10	453.30	+ 3.60	1.09
-do- Accum	626.30	666.60	+ 5.30	1.09
Conti Smlr Cos	64.44	68.69	+ 1.30	1.31
-do- Accum	68.55	73.08	+ 1.39	1.31
Convertible	146.50	155.90†	+ 2.60	5.10
-do- Accum	324.60	345.30†	+ 5.90	5.10
Emerging Markets	68.62	73.37	+ 1.83	0.30
-do- Accum	69.17	73.90	+ 1.94	0.30
European	163.20	172.90	+ 2.80	0.50
-do- Accum	172.90	183.20	+ 3.10	0.50
Extra Income	411.90	438.10†	+ 7.70	4.45
-do- Accum	664.00	708.40†	+12.40	4.45
Financial	194.50	206.40	+ 4.40	0.46
-do- Accum	206.10	219.30	+ 4.70	0.46
Gilt Invst	64.87	66.35	+ 0.28	6.65
-do- Accum	100.60	103.90	+ 0.40	6.65
Health Fund Inc	290.20	307.90	+ 7.50	.
-do- Accum	288.20	307.90	+ 7.50	..
Income & Growth	240.40	255.70	+ 4.00	3.95
-do- Accum	388.50	413.30	+ 6.70	3.95
Intl Growth	440.30	468.80	+13.10	.
-do- Accum	489.00	521.70	+14.60	...
Japan & Gen	136.80	145.50	+ 7.30	
-do- Accum	138.20	147.00	+ 7.30	...
Monthly Inc #	208.70	222.00†	+ 0.70	4.38
-do- Accum #	211.20	224.70†	+ 0.80	4.38
Managed Port Inc	125.90	133.60	+ 2.30	1.34
-do- Accum	137.90	146.28	+ 2.70	1.34
Quarterly Income #	59.07	63.36†	+ 0.10	5.28
-do- Accum #	69.07	74.08†	+ 0.75	5.28
Recovery	343.60	367.58†	+ 5.70	..
-do- Accum	405.60	433.80†	+ 6.70	..
UK Growth	71.55	76.54	+ 1.02	2
-do- Accum	78.02	83.00	+ 1.10	2
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 716435 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	69.68	74.28	+ 3.33	0.04
FP Am Smlr Cos	209.10	223.00	+ 4.30	
FP Asian Growth	296.30	316.00	+ 1.80	..
FP Australian	431.30	460.00	+10.90	...
FP Equity Dist	493.50	526.30	+ 4.30	2.22
-do- Accum	£11.01	£11.74	+ 9.08	2.22
FP Euro Gth	319.40	340.60	+ 7.30	..
-do- Accum	349.42	372.60	+ 8.02	..
FP Intl Bond	56.54	59.83†	+ 0.83	3.90
FP Intl Gth Dist	39.75	42.40	+ 1.09	..
-do- Accum	58.38	62.27	+ 1.59	..
FP Pac Basin Acc	214.60	228.90	+ 2.10	...
FP Income #	63.29	67.56	+ 0.81	4.65
-do- Accum #	225.00	240.00	+ 2.90	4.65
FP Jap Smlr Cos	226.50	241.60	+ 4.60	..
FP Monthly Dist #	79.91	85.23†	+ 0.91	5.22
FP Stlg Deposit	100.40	100.40	+ 0.10	5.11
FP Tokyo	65.27	69.62	+ 3.27	..
FP UK Focus	45.46	48.51	+ 0.35	1.47
FP UK Growth	215.00	229.30	+ 2.40	1.99
-do- Accum	437.30	466.40	+ 4.70	1.99
Stewardship Dist	476.40	508.10	+ 0.20	1.12
-do- Accum	602.00	642.10	+ 0.30	1.12
Stewship Inc Dist #	84.23	89.84†	- 0.32	4.46
-do- Accum #	117.90	125.70	+ 0.50	4.46
N Am Stship Dist	136.00	145.00	+ 4.00	0.20
-do- Accum	146.30	156.00	+ 4.30	0.20
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	114.60	115.10	+ 0.10	3.20
Inst Ethical Ac #	114.60	115.10	+ 0.10	3.20
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	133.00	141.40	+ 1.70	1.12
Open Cap Gth Acc	136.90	145.60	+ 1.40	0.09
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	122.30	130.10†	+ 1.68	3.09
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	131.10	139.40	+ 1.80	3.09
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	126.90	134.90†	+ 1.48	3.94
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	137.50	146.20	+ 1.60	3.94
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 100/7				
GANDA	320.30	339.70	+ 4.90	1.76
Cash	49.33	50.07†	+ 0.03	4.83
Growth Portfolio	94.52	100.60†	+ 3.16	0.12
Income Portfolio	76.66	81.34†	+ 0.50	2.80
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	251.40	268.90	+ 7.80	0.28
Dividend	*106.50*	*113.60†*	*+ 2.00*	*4.08*
Int Gilt & Inc	270.70	289.50†	+ 8.40	2.22
UK & Gen	55.31	59.16	+ 1.49	1.40
Fund of Funds	78.56	84.02	+ 0.61	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
America Smlr Cos	228.00	243.70	- 1.80	0.14
European Gth	802.50	855.00	+22.90	0.56
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	56.90	60.31	+ 0.85	5.00
-do- Accum	64.50	68.47	+ 0.98	5.00
Far East & Gen	*278.30*	*297.70*	*+ 2.10*	..
High Yield #	51.50	54.49†	+ 0.60	7.36
-do- Accum #	58.60	62.00	+ 0.51	7.36
Income Inc	209.00	223.60	+ 0.60	3.85
-do- Accum	238.90	255.60	+ 0.80	3.85
Intl Growth	401.40	426.90	+ 8.90	0.29
Intl Income	100.50	106.40	+ 2.80	2.56
Japan Growth	408.30	433.70	+ 8.00	..
Orient Acc	213.00	227.90	- 0.90	0.13
UK General Inc	202.20	216.20†	+ 0.30	1.62
UK General Acc	362.90	388.10	+ 0.70	1.62
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	66.07	70.67	- 0.39	1.64
UK Spec Sits	111.10	118.90	- 0.30	1.38
US Growth	201.70	213.90	+ 4.10	..
Wwide Spec Sits	168.70	179.40	+ 0.70	.
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	84.03	88.39†	+ 0.14	1.99
Cash Trust	148.58	148.58†	+ 0.12	5.54
Practical Inv Inc #	129.45	136.45	+ 1.64	3.47
-do- Accum #	313.23	336.01	+ 3.98	3.47
UK Index	195.84	198.82	+ 2.31	3.23
UK Smaller Cos	230.55	246.58	+ 3.31	0.25
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	35.64	36.57†	+ 0.37	7.19
High Income	37.25	39.69†	+ 0.48	4.48
UK Equity Income	169.88	181.77†	+ 0.53	2.99
Global Bond	28.49	28.53	+ 0.22	4.71
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	51.46	55.04	+ 1.34	..
Global Managed	152.93	162.55	+ 4.19	0.89
Gold & Intl Res	115.50	123.58	+ 2.17	.
Global Utilities	158.76	169.37†	+ 1.12	1.12
Overseas Funds				
American	229.68	226.41	+ 9.18	0.49
European	148.07	157.14	+ 3.31	0.50
Euro Sel Opps	228.54	242.86†	+ 5.40	..
Amer Emerging	186.91	198.36	+ 2.76	...
Hong Kong	180.69	193.31	- 0.33	1.15
Japan	180.50	191.79	+ 7.67	...
Pacific Growth	238.73	253.96	+ 1.40	.
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	271.72	271.72†	- 1.65	1.89
Long Term Bal	293.21	293.21†	+ 2.47	2.84
Med Term Bal	241.34	241.34†	+ 1.75	2.84
UK Equity	328.67	338.87	+ 1.15	2.38
UK Emerging Cos	190.35	190.35	- 4.15	1.90
American	378.94	378.94	+15.57	0.42
Japan	105.80	105.80	+ 4.73	
European	383.30	383.30	+ 6.17	0.69
Index Linked Gilt	195.69	195.69	+ 3.18	2.57
Fixed Interest	182.71	188.21†	+ 2.21	5.86
Amer Emerging	411.11	411.11	+ 3.11	..
Pacific	241.56	241.56	+ 2.29	0.77
Emerging Mkts	137.03	137.03†	+ 4.69	0.38
Index Strat Japan	111.88	111.88†	+ 4.77	0.28
-do- Pacific Rim	218.08	218.08†	- 1.22	0.98
-do- Cont Europe	204.78	204.78†	+ 3.96	1.43
Index Strat USA	218.85	218.85†	+ 9.50	1.29
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	130.14	138.44	+ 1.19	..
Med Term Bal	115.24	122.69	+ 0.89	..
Long Term Bal	132.23	140.67	+ 1.09	..
UK Equity	153.12	162.89	+ 0.57	..
UK Emerging Cos	92.01	97.89	+ 0.42	..
American	172.01	182.96	+ 7.70	..
Japan	50.19	53.39	+ 2.41	..
European	159.39	169.58	+ 2.73	..
Fixed Interest	96.18	102.29	+ 1.21	..
Index Linked Gilt	87.17	92.73	+ 1.47	..
Deposit	89.34	95.04	+ 0.07	..
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	162.60	171.16	+ 1.58	0.58
Bnstd Gilt Port Inc	75.80	80.03	- 0.61	6.00
-do- Inc Port Inc	68.05	71.62†	+ 0.58	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	60.89	64.26	+ 0.79	0.10
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	712.19	757.64†	+ 0.65	0.68
-do- Accum	808.40	860.00	+ 0.74	0.60
European Inc	189.53	201.53†	+ 1.13	1.02
Amalgam Inc	167.80	177.75	+ 0.06	.
N America Inc	459.39	488.71	+12.98	.
Far East Inc	362.93	386.16†	+ 4.73	0.17
-do- Accum	376.69	400.73	+ 4.91	0.17
UK Divid Inc	225.15	239.52†	- 6.25	1.81
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7700				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	124.400	132.580	+ 0.79	
Do NAV to Mar 21	118.32	118.32		
UK Equity Safeguard	97.33	104.56	+ 5.43	
Do NAV to Mar 21	91.86	91.86		
Cash	9.5166	9.5665†	+ 0.01	3.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	304.50	323.90	+ 1.10	.
British Growth	76.14	81.42	- 0.21	2.56
UK Small Cos	77.09	82.44	+ 0.54	0.62
FTSE 250 Index	95.43	102.06	+ 0.14	2.12
Geared UK Index	16.8715	19.0761	+ 0.41	4.75
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	102.92	110.06	+ 0.62	4.09
Corp Bd	78.50	81.10	+ 0.56	.
Monthly Inc	41.72	44.55†	+ 0.38	8.60
International Funds				
American Gen	261.10	276.20	+12.90	.
American Strat	271.81	290.70†	+ 0.92	.
JG US Index	20.5101	21.8105	+ 0.65	3.79
European Gen	287.30	304.60	+ 6.70	
European Strat	133.01	142.25	+ 2.99	
Japan Gen	131.50	139.10	+ 4.30	
Japan Strat	47.61	50.55†	+ 0.27	
Asia Pacific	104.81	112.09	+ 2.52	
Pacific Strat	166.95	178.55†	+ 2.62	..
Greater China	227.45	243.25	- 3.27	
Latin America	110.79	118.48	+ 7.14	
Intl Growth	175.91	188.13	+ 4.53	
Balanced Exempt	141.50	146.60	+ 2.00	
For Granville see Guinness Flight				
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9888				
European	631.20	674.30	+14.20	0.01
Gilt & Fixed	136.70	145.00	+ 1.60	5.27
Growth Equity	482.60	515.50	+ 6.70	1.15
Income Trust	163.40	174.50	+ 1.30	3.84
International	216.30	231.10	+ 6.80	
Japan Trust	98.80	105.30	+ 5.39	
Nth American	398.20	425.40	+14.20	
Pacific	602.10	643.20	+ 7.40	0.11
Gandhal	702.50	750.50	+ 7.40	1.32
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	103.87	107.74	+ 0.19	5.09
Global High Inc	98.94	102.68	+ 0.84	5.46
Corporate Bond	108.73	112.88	+ 1.50	6.64
Eqty & Bond Inc	117.91	125.39	+ 1.16	4.87
European Growth	140.06	148.91	+ 1.61	..
Intl PEP Invest	75.82	80.62	+ 1.99	.
Equity Inc	145.47	154.67	+ 1.26	3.54
-do- Accum	216.78	230.49	+ 1.88	3.54
Recovery	438.60	465.30	+ 2.70	2.15
-do- Accum	523.90	555.00	+ 3.20	2.15
St Vinc High Inc	141.50	146.62	+ 1.73	6.80
UK Emerg Cos	211.40	221.00	-13.40	2.72
UK Smllr Cos	432.70	449.30	-17.00	2.65
Gwth Prtn Tst	134.16	142.65	+ 0.91	1.38
-do- Accum	137.48	146.38	+ 0.93	1.38
Inc Share Tst	97.23	103.38	+ 1.07	8.44
Small Cos	107.91	114.67†	+ 0.05	1.58
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Balanced Inc	58.93	62.45†	+ 0.66	3.27
Balanced Acc	63.47	67.30	+ 0.71	3.27
Growth	36.05	38.27†	+ 0.38	1.79
Growth Acc	37.55	39.61	+ 0.38	1.79
Income	34.26	36.33	+ 0.27	4.34
Income Acc	36.92	39.15	+ 0.28	4.34
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Accumulator Tst	28.51	30.89	- 0.37	2.86
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
High Provide	102.20	105.60†	+ 0.80	6.41
Model Pfolio	261.00	274.70	+ 2.40	2.25
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 454649 Dealing: 0645 454646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	401.30	423.38	+ 5.79	0.45
Best of British	79.92	84.82	+ 1.10	1.88
UK Smaller Cos	170.81	183.61†	- 0.19	0.45
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	322.70	354.38	+ 3.16	3.20
-do- Accum #	861.40	1110.13	+ 9.05	3.20
High Income	381.83	389.57†	+ 3.13	4.01
Extra Income #	318.09	338.72	+ 3.62	5.53
Pref & Bond	50.97	52.57†	+ 0.58	6.10
International				
Ethical	129.93	138.95†	- 0.26	1.52
International	354.57	355.72	+10.23	
Global Bond	53.68	58.63	+ 0.60	5.37
Intl Port Tst	102.50	110.64	+ 1.44	0.43
Global Tech	249.40	267.55	+ 4.34	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	208.74	228.54	+ 0.66	0.02
European	661.81	707.41	+ 8.32	0.06
European Income #	182.53	198.27†	+ 1.85	2.70
Euro Smlr Cos	214.67	229.69	+ 5.07	0.78
European Value	104.74	111.74	+ 1.00	
-do- Accum	112.88	120.74	+ 1.08	...
Japan Trust	174.68	185.53†	+ 7.05	
Japan Smllr Cos	163.61	173.14	+ 0.13	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	233.57	248.84	+ 1.15	..
North American	357.60	378.67†	+11.77	..
American Smaller	180.40	192.55	+ 1.27	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	167.40	176.30†	+ 2.40	5.16
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	133.78	140.69	+ 1.30	1.53
Capital	216.89	227.11†	+ 3.22	1.34
Dollar	573.42	600.44	+20.32	..
Enterprise Gth	455.36	476.84	+ 1.41	0.77
European	303.69	318.00	+ 5.48	0.08
Far East	323.74	339.00	- 0.00	0.11
Financial	£12.14	£12.72	+30.00	1.35
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	27.06	28.14†	+ 0.27	6.55
High Yield #	119.40	125.03	+ 1.31	4.60
Income & Growth #	176.29	184.60	+ 1.59	3.37
International	303.48	317.78	+ 6.92	0.31
Japanese General	162.03	169.66	+ 5.69	..
Japan Tech	75.46	79.01†	+ 3.15	..
Nat Resources	81.41	85.25	+ 1.78	0.53
Portfolio	89.66	93.88	+ 0.98	1.16
Special Sits	235.09	246.16	+ 3.36	...
UK Emerging Cos	142.13	148.83	+ 0.17	0.68
US Smaller Cos	165.67	173.48	+ 0.76	..
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 680 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	691.60	738.10†	+ 7.00	5.28
UK Growth	769.30	821.00	+12.20	1.38
High Income #	124.70	133.10†	+ 1.80	5.61
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	694.70	736.20	+27.50	0.24
European Gwth	161.30	171.40†	+ 2.50	0.14
Japan Gwth	222.70	236.70	+ 9.60	..
Japan Smlr Cos	25.75	27.48†	+ 0.16	..
Asian	65.80	70.22†	- 0.43	0.09
Sing & Malay Gwth	98.18	104.83	+ 3.60	..
Hong Kong Gwth	176.90	188.70	- 6.50	0.93
Global Bond	21.15	22.31†	+ 0.17	4.93
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	182.70	183.60†	+ 2.20	3.03
Triple Index	137.90	141.40	- 0.10	2.00
THE FOOTSIE FUND	71.78	72.14	+ 1.06	2.89
Index Funds-International				
American Index	328.40	330.00†	+14.80	0.90
Eurotrack 100	214.00	215.10†	+ 3.80	1.37
Japan Index	59.09	59.39†	+ 2.63	0.11
Tiger Index	194.10	199.30	- 0.10	0.14
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	55.34	57.60†	+ 0.51	1.09
General Funds				
Managed Dist	95.40	99.63	+ 1.46	1.10
Managed	98.34	102.70	+ 1.50	1.10
Repeat Child Fnd	113.30	118.10	+ 1.10	1.74
UK Growth	77.83	81.29	+ 0.32	1.43
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	94.51	98.81†	+ 0.95	5.11
Gilt & Fixed Int #	27.79	28.70†	+ 0.29	7.87
UK Inc & Gwth	53.01	55.38	+ 0.46	2.61
UK Income #	418.50	426.70	+ 2.00	3.85
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	70.33	72.98	+ 2.79	...
Amer Smlr Cos	173.20	180.50	+ 2.87	..
-do- Accum	175.00	182.80	+ 2.39	..
Europe Gth	270.90	281.30	+ 8.10	..
-do- Accum	280.50	291.40	+ 8.40	...
Euro Smaller Cos	50.49	52.45	+ 1.13	..
French Growth	108.10	112.20†	+ 1.70	0.17
-do- Accum	117.00	121.50†	+ 1.90	0.17
H Kong & China	115.10	119.50†	- 4.10	0.54
Intl Growth	77.87	74.80	+ 2.04	0.36
-do- Accum	73.23	76.22	+ 2.09	0.36
Japan Gth	24.12	25.05	+ 0.98	..
-do- Accum	24.12	25.05	+ 0.98	..
Japan Smaller Cos	29.60	30.13	+ 0.80	..
Glob Emg Mkts	103.10	107.70	+ 2.40	..
-do- Accum	103.80	108.40	+ 2.40	0.11
SE Asia	364.60	380.80	- 3.60	..
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	51.72	53.31	+ 0.41	6.02
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
Sector Value Inc #	112.90	119.10	+ 1.30	3.43
Sector Value Gwth	114.70	120.90	+ 1.40	1.75
Hy 5 Europe	109.50	115.10	+ 2.00	1.94
Stelar Gwth	210.30	224.30	+ 1.50	0.90
New Japan	*81.83*	*86.35*	+ 2.19	..
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	228.30	242.60†	- 0.19	..
Income #	240.03	255.35†	+ 4.55	..
UK Growth	94.36	100.38†	+ 1.84	1.85
Intl Growth	91.48	97.31†	+ 1.67	0.58
Ecology	112.89	119.99	+ 1.35	...
European	230.827	245.56†	+ 6.26	0.56
Far Eastern	314.80	334.80†	+ 7.90	...
UK Special Sits	59.81	63.79	+ 0.61	...
Fd of Inv Tsts	55.91	59.63	+ 1.87	...

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	104.80	108.40	+ 1.20	6.63
Euro Pen Inc	110.20	118.00	+ 1.00	2.75
-do- Accum	110.90	118.00	+ 1.00	2.75
Gilt Yield	123.40	130.10	+ 1.20	6.22
Global Income	243.90	259.50†	+ 3.40	3.07
High Yield	172.13	183.10†	+ 1.90	5.09
-do- Accum	575.00	611.70†	+ 6.10	5.09
Money Market	98.76	98.76	+ 0.07	5.47
Smllr Cos Div	66.07	70.22†	+ 0.10	3.83
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.270	10.47	+ 0.09	.
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	168.30	179.70†	+ 5.60	
Asian Growth	330.50	351.70	+ 0.20	
-do- Accum	388.50	413.30	+ 0.30	
North American	123.80	131.70	+ 4.30	
European Special	143.60	152.80	+ 2.40	1.09
European	224.30	236.40	+ 4.20	0.47
-do- Accum	257.00	273.40	+ 5.60	0.47
Global Eqty Inc	127.30	135.10†	+ 2.40	2.08
Japan	239.90	255.20	+15.50	.
Japanese Special	179.70	191.20	+ 3.00	..
Smaller Cos	163.73	174.20	+ 4.50	0.99
UK Equity Growth	59.84	63.66†	+ 1.81	1.12
UK Index Inc	351.50	373.50	+ 4.50	3.58
Braemar Tst	112.30	121.40	..	1.81
-do- Accum	114.50	123.10		1.81
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Badge Income	334.34	353.68	+ 6.99	4.59
Exb Growth	104.98	111.04	- 0.01	1.35
Inc & Growth Inc	74.82	79.36†	+ 1.29	3.57
Smaller Cos	100.91	107.35	+ 0.89	1.11
Ever Smll Cos Inc	258.73	275.24	+ 1.31	2.16
Ever Smll Cos Acc	467.37	497.14	+ 2.41	2.16
Ever Recovery Inc	64.86	69.00	+ 0.86	2.04
Ever Recovery Acc	67.63	72.01	+ 0.90	2.04
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	490.50	520.40†	+ 3.80	2.07
UK Inc/Gth #	512.70	547.50†	+ 2.50	4.10
UK Income #	369.60	392.10†	+ 3.70	4.46
UK Sm Cos	333.00	356.20	+ 1.63	1.46
Euro Gwth	173.70	183.70	+ 2.80	0.15
N Amer Gwth	134.90	143.10	+ 6.30	.
Japan Growth	47.06	49.93	+ 1.57	.
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	634.90	654.90†	+ 4.40	2.52
-do- Accum	£13.14	£13.47	+ 9.00	2.53
Equity Income #	111.30	117.30†	+ 0.60	4.80
UK Tactical Alloctn	73.06	72.86	+ 1.09	3.98
European	157.30	167.90†	+ 2.90	0.66
Far Eastern	230.30	230.30†	+ 2.50	.
Fixed Interest	56.55	58.55	+ 0.58	6.74
Gilt	95.10	95.10	+ 0.96	6.08
Global Growth	84.65	84.65†	+ 2.30	0.19
Intl Bond	50.13	52.10†	- 0.70	5.30
Japanese	38.95	39.95†	+ 4.14	...
North American	246.40	246.40†	+ 7.50	0.54
Pacific Growth	123.00	129.27	+ 0.40	0.11
UK Index	84.10	84.10	+ 1.51	2.98
UK Recovery	124.20	124.20	+ 1.10	1.30
UK Smaller Cos	173.50	173.50†	- 0.29	1.15
US Index	96.44	96.44†	+ 4.11	0.99
European Index	89.18	89.18†	+ 2.79	1.27
Japan Index	30.43	30.43†	+ 1.41	
Worldwide	104.70	104.70	+ 1.60	1.38
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	61.25	65.51	+ 0.95	2.59
Income	71.62	76.59†	+ 0.89	4.11
Far East	48.95	52.35	+ 0.72	0.00
North American	144.50	154.20†	+ 4.60	
Global	99.05	105.90†	+ 1.80	0.42
European	108.70	116.07	+ 0.90	0.03
Japan	77.40	82.78	+ 3.04	
Intl Currency Bd	57.68	61.28	+ 0.33	5.13
SE Asia	111.70	119.40	+ 0.50	0.47
UK Cap Growth	112.30	120.08	+ 1.10	2.56
Recovery Trust	94.35	100.90	- 0.73	3.40
Managed	77.66	83.05	+ 0.98	1.31
Cash	50.12	50.12†	+ 0.03	4.57
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 320 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	443.30	471.70	+ 3.60	1.99
-do- Accum	£10.50	£11.27	+ 9.00	1.99
Cont Euro Sls	88.42	92.76	+ 1.45	0.04
-do- Accum	95.43	100.50	+ 1.62	0.04
Extra Inc	324.40	373.80	- 0.30	3.54
-do- Accum	840.70	892.90	- 1.00	3.54
FTSE 100 Inc	133.90	142.50	+ 1.80	2.57
FTSE 100 Acc	139.80	148.80	+ 1.80	2.57
German Gth	148.00	155.80	+ 3.40	
-do- Accum	156.20	163.40	+ 3.70	.
Growth Port	713.10	758.70	+ 8.60	..
-do- Accum	743.70	790.70	+ 9.10	..
High Interest Inc	104.70	108.58	+ 1.50	7.14
High Interest Acc	112.70	118.90	+ 1.70	7.14
Hi Income Inc #	113.60	120.90	+ 1.19	5.78
Hi Income Acc #	124.60	132.60	+ 1.22	5.78
Income	801.80	840.30	+11.00	2.69
-do- Accum	£17.21	£18.31	+31.00	2.69
Income Port	508.30	538.50†	+ 5.40	3.98
-do- Accum	692.10	735.20	+ 6.90	3.98
Japan Growth	92.04	98.21	+ 3.33	
-do- Accum	83.20	88.52	+ 3.34	...
Master Trust	72.03	76.63	+ 0.77	1.11
-do- Accum	83.12	88.48	+ 0.88	1.11
Millennium Acc	101.90	108.50		2.17
N American Gth	279.80	297.70	+11.40	...
-do- Accum	323.90	344.60	+13.20	..
NAm Sm Co Inc	196.60	208.10	+ 0.60	.
-do- Accum	200.60	213.50	+ 0.80	.
Pacific Basin	265.70	282.70†	- 0.40	0.22
-do- Accum	283.60	301.80	- 0.40	0.22
Safety First Acc	98.27	103.48	+ 0.90	1.90
Do until 12/1/98 ‡	93.25			
Small Cos Inc	567.80	597.70	+ 1.30	1.56
-do- Accum	784.20	825.50	+ 1.80	1.56
UK Eq Gth	180.40	192.00	+ 1.50	2.29
UK Eq Inc	140.10	145.82	+ 1.08	2.44
UK Growth	115.50	122.90†	+ 1.10	1.70
-do- Accum	146.08	155.48	+ 1.39	1.70
Worldwide Gth	369.30	392.93	+10.60	0.28
-do- Accum	546.30	581.28	+15.60	0.28
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 873				
American	98.82	104.93	+ 4.26	0.00
General	116.09	124.56	+ 1.84	2.70
Income	79.68	85.42	+ 0.63	5.48
International	76.34	81.91	+ 2.05	0.50
Japan	44.75	48.81	+ 1.97	...
Tst of Inv Trusts	80.24	86.09	+ 1.20	1.80
M & G SECURITIES				
Client Svcs/Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	582.70	615.40†	+22.80	0.30
-do- Accum	730.10	771.10†	+28.60	0.30
Amer Recovery	654.90	692.67	+11.60	0.05
-do- Accum	757.40	801.90	+13.40	0.05
Amer Smllr Cos	171.90	181.80†	+ 2.80	..
-do- Accum	175.60	185.70†	+ 2.90	..
Australasian	226.40	239.40	+ 6.60	1.78
-do- Accum	284.40	300.70	+ 8.40	1.78
Capital	1027.20	1086.30†	-12.20	2.79
-do- Accum	1239.20	1310.50†	- 1.10	2.79
Charifund	836.50	847.00†	+ 6.90	3.43
-do- Accum	4415.90	4490.10†	+52.00	5.43
Commodity	491.70	520.80†	+ 6.70	0.28
-do- Accum	727.10	769.90†	+ 9.90	0.26
Compound Gth	1198.00	1266.90	+10.40	2.54
-do- Accum	1223.40	1309.80	+11.80	2.54
Corporate Bond	27.67	27.17†	+ 0.39	7.10
Dividend	46.88	49.50	+ 0.70	4.67
-do- Accum	212.20	224.40	+ 2.80	4.67
Equity Income	352.00	372.20†	- 5.60	5.35
-do- Accum	498.80	527.40†	+ 3.70	5.35
Euro & General	685.30	724.70	+15.20	0.50
-do- Accum	880.20	930.80	+19.60	0.50
Euro Dividend	87.80	92.60†	+ 1.20	3.56
-do- Accum	112.60	119.00†	+ 1.50	3.56
Euro Smlr Cos	56.40	59.60	+ 0.70	0.50
-do- Accum	56.48	59.80	+ 0.70	0.50
Extra Yield	506.70	535.80	+ 7.70	4.76
-do- Accum	1713.70	1812.40	+26.10	4.76
Fund of Inv Tsts	768.10	812.30	+ 9.80	1.89
-do- Accum	1483.80	1569.20	+18.90	1.89
General	73.80	78.00	+ 0.60	3.74
-do- Accum	221.60	234.30	+ 2.00	3.74
Gilt Income	64.39	64.45†	+ 0.05	6.50
-do- Accum	200.76	201.06†	+ 2.83	6.50
Gold	71.50	76.08†	+ 2.00	0.61
-do- Accum	86.30	91.30†	+ 2.40	0.61
High Income	35.40	37.48	+ 0.20	4.49
-do- Accum	154.00	162.90	+ 1.80	4.49
Intl Growth	93.70	99.10†	+ 2.20	0.61
-do- Accum	166.00	175.60†	+ 3.90	0.61
International Inc	117.70	124.59	+ 1.50	4.25
-do- Accum	188.90	199.90	+ 2.60	4.25
Japan & Gen	30.70	32.49	+ 0.90	..
-do- Accum	33.00	34.90	+ 1.00	..
Japan Smlr Cos	110.30	116.60	+ 2.00	..
-do- Accum	111.10	117.40	+ 2.00	..
Managed Gwth	28.30	29.90†	+ 0.30	1.56
Managed Income	31.70	33.30†	+ 0.38	3.99
Midland	64.70	68.40	+ 0.28	3.01
-do- Accum	227.50	241.10	+ 0.70	3.01
Pension Ex	1153.00	1184.50	+ 7.90	4.02
Recovery	49.00	51.80†	+ 0.19	2.90
-do- Accum	85.10	89.90†	+ 0.20	2.90
Second General	78.80	83.30†	+ 0.30	3.63
-do- Accum	218.10	230.50†	+ 0.87	3.63
Smaller Cos	70.40	74.40†	- 0.80	3.35
-do- Accum	148.10	156.50†	+ 1.20	3.35
Sth East Asia	426.20	450.70	+ 1.20	1.08
-do- Accum	570.90	603.70	+ 1.80	1.08
Treasury	25.16	25.21†	+ 0.03	5.97
Trustee	46.40	49.10	+ 0.30	5.00
-do- Accum	202.80	214.60	+ 1.40	5.00
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 281 010 Enq: 01903 204 881				
European Growth	109.72	116.72	+ 2.45	0.69
Intl Bond	64.01	67.25	+ 0.69	4.77
Intl Equity Growth	89.05	94.68	+ 2.62	0.60
N Amer Growth	155.78	165.55	+ 7.37	0.77
Special Sits Growth	30.36	32.29	+ 0.24	1.96
UK Growth	498.40	530.21	+ 4.57	2.46
-do- Accum	688.24	732.16	+ 6.30	2.46
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01920 825867				
Balanced Fd #	*1503.10*	*1527.40*	+25.60	2.80
Income #	1067.00	1083.60†	+ 8.30	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	178.20	179.50†	...	3.45
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	*182.10*	*194.90†*	+ 2.70	2.35
-do- Accum	226.60	232.60†	+ 3.30	2.35
UK Sel Pfolio	169.70	175.80	+ 2.70	2.37
-do- Accum	205.70	213.60	+ 2.40	2.37
UK 100 Cos	128.80	128.80	+ 1.80	2.58
-do- Accum	131.00	131.80	+ 1.90	2.58
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	75.68	79.87	+ 0.56	2.28
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4848				
Intl Income	91.03	96.63	+ 1.40	2.88
European	113.00	120.00†	+ 1.30	0.78
Income #	90.53	96.18†	+ 1.26	4.02
Nth American	108.90	115.60	+ 4.00	0.14
Far East	187.10	198.60	+ 2.60	0.20
Japan	53.95	57.27	+ 2.61	..
Emrging Mkts	99.04	104.90†	+ 3.90	..
Intl Growth	140.80	149.50	+ 4.00	0.39
UK Growth	134.40	142.70	+ 1.48	2.12
UK Smlr Co	67.85	72.93	+ 0.18	1.01
Asia Pacific	40.60	43.42	- 0.10	0.36
Glob Gwth PEP	68.41	72.61	+ 1.55	0.35
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 831 7452				
Select Portfolio	106.50	113.10	+ 2.00	...
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	502.20	534.26	+ 9.53	4.34
Global Inc	80.24	85.35	+ 1.88	4.10
Brit Leaders	41.30	43.95	+ 0.95	3.47
Intl Leaders	247.74	263.55	+ 6.60	1.32
PMM Mg Bal Gth	73.50	78.36	+ 1.37	0.44
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	311.00	328.10	+15.80	..
-do- Accum	332.50	350.80	+16.80	..
American Opps	134.30	143.30	+ 2.70	
-do- Accum	135.90	145.00	+ 2.70	..
British Blue Chip	104.50	110.80	+ 1.20	2.17
-do- Accum	135.50	143.80	+ 1.80	2.17
Cash	100.40	100.40†	+ 0.10	5.62
-do- Accum	130.80	130.80†	+ 0.10	5.62
Emerging Mkts	145.70	156.70	+ 5.40	0.09
-do- Accum	147.50	158.60	+ 5.50	0.09
European Growth	355.60	376.10	+ 8.90	0.12
-do- Accum	387.70	410.10	+ 9.70	0.12
European Income	97.90	103.60†	+ 1.50	2.77
-do- Accum	142.20	150.50†	+ 2.30	2.77
General	855.90	897.60	+ 6.50	1.78
-do- Accum	1342.00	1425.00	+12.00	1.78
Global Bond	133.10	139.80	+ 1.50	5.82
-do- Accum	176.50	185.80	+ 1.90	5.82
Gold & General	204.00	218.20	+ 6.40	0.61
-do- Accum	211.10	225.80	+ 6.60	0.61
Govt Securities	97.54	100.58	+ 0.85	5.71
-do- Accum	207.50	215.80	+ 2.00	5.71
High Yield Bd	106.20	108.70	+ 1.38	8.64
-do- Accum	114.80	117.10	+ 1.40	8.64
Income	202.50	214.60†	+ 2.10	4.19
-do- Accum	342.70	363.80†	+ 3.60	4.19
Inc Portfolio #	118.70	125.50†	+ 1.20	4.95
-do- Accum #	131.40	139.10†	+ 1.40	4.95
Intl Opps	573.40	611.80	+ 5.60	0.14
-do- Accum	778.70	828.50	+ 7.60	0.14
Japan	143.50	152.90†	+ 7.80	.
-do- Accum	147.30	157.60†	+ 8.20	
New Europe	254.70	271.70†	+ 2.30	0.74
-do- Accum	267.50	285.30†	+ 2.40	0.74
Pacific	118.00	125.90	- 0.10	0.81
-do- Accum	127.10	135.80	- 0.10	0.81
Recovery	506.80	540.60	- 0.30	0.48
-do- Accum	669.00	713.80	- 0.30	0.48
UK Smaller Cos	69.37	73.99	- 0.37	0.70
-do- Accum	80.10	85.44	- 0.42	0.70
Portfolio	99.80	105.80	+ 1.50	2.18
-do- Accum	123.00	130.40	+ 1.80	2.18
Managed Cos	127.50	135.50	+ 1.50	0.86
Managed Inc	125.70	130.30	+ 1.30	2.87
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
European Plus	168.65	179.63	+ 4.43	0.13
Portfolio	85.39	90.74	+ 0.81	1.32
UK Income Inc	99.85	106.22	+ 1.35	4.45
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 125				
Balanced	72.74	76.17	+ 0.63	2.49
-do- Accum	80.70	84.50	+ 0.91	2.49
British Tst	116.10	121.60	+ 2.10	2.24
-do- Accum	138.90	145.50	+ 2.60	2.24
Corp Bond Inc	102.20	105.90†	+ 0.92	6.46
-do- Accum	107.50	111.30†	+ 1.80	6.46
Extra High Inc	74.96	78.39†	+ 0.85	6.55
-do- Accum	163.30	171.00†	+ 1.90	6.55
FTSE 100 Acc	79.87	80.49†	+ 1.20	2.29
FTSE 100 Inc	71.63	75.01†	+ 1.12	2.29
Gilt & Fxd Int	57.74	60.08	+ 0.51	8.24
-do- Accum	186.30	193.90	+ 1.70	8.24
High Yield	254.80	266.80	+ 2.80	5.30
-do- Accum	713.30	746.90	+ 7.90	5.30
Income	348.70	365.10†	+ 6.30	3.72
-do- Accum	834.20	870.30†	+14.80	3.72
Money Market UT	49.30	49.30†	+ 0.03	5.22
-do- Accum	84.33	84.53†	+ 0.06	5.22
Monthly Income	101.80	106.40†	+ 1.10	4.63
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	145.10	154.40	+ 1.99	1.27
European Growth	144.80	153.50	+ 0.30	0.01
Gilt & Fixed	105.00	111.30	+ 1.03	4.98
Income	113.60	120.80	+ 1.80	2.12
Japan Growth	38.20	40.57	+ 0.91	...
Managed	88.85	94.52	+ 1.85	1.85
Money Market	97.37	103.20	+ 0.10	3.89
North American	121.90	129.20	+ 3.30	0.35
Midland PSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	131.63	140.07	+ 1.70	1.26
European Growth	135.90	144.10	+ 0.30	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	98.79	104.80	+ 0.90	5.02
Income	111.39	118.40	+ 1.18	2.17
Japan Growth	38.12	40.49	+ 0.89	..
Managed	84.86	90.28	+ 1.00	1.84
Money Market	83.73	85.12	+ 0.12	3.85
North American	109.70	116.30	+ 2.80	0.42
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	130.30	138.60	+ 1.89	1.27
European Growth	133.10	141.10	+ 0.30	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	88.47	93.82	+ 0.80	5.28
Income	107.30	114.69	+ 0.98	2.23
Japan Growth	38.88	41.29	+ 0.91	..
Managed	87.31	92.88	+ 1.02	1.82
Money Market	81.28	86.13	+ 0.08	4.04
North American	123.00	130.40	+ 3.30	0.32
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	521.50	553.60†	+20.80	...
European Gth Inc	530.50	571.10	+18.59	...
-do- Accum	637.30	678.40	+19.70	.
Intl Gwth	244.70	258.29	+ 8.69	..
UK Equity Inc	240.60	258.02	+ 1.20	4.03
Do. Accum	328.70	349.50	+ 1.66	4.03
UK Intl Trckr Inc	209.40	223.30†	+ 2.50	2.91
-do- Accum	261.20	278.60†	+ 3.20	2.91
US Eq Ind Tik Inc	319.30	337.90	+14.30	0.70
Japan Tracker	55.62	58.89	+ 2.76	..
Asian Tracker	237.76	256.03	- 0.10	0.15
Mngd Pfolio Inc	200.50	213.39	+ 2.90	1.86
Mngd Pfolio Acc	219.70	234.00	+ 3.19	1.86
Deposit Inc	99.68	99.68	- 0.61	5.36
Europe	260.00	280.80†	+ 1.30	..
Emerging	232.70	251.80	- 0.58	2.23
High Income	20.85	22.11†	+ 0.08	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
American	116.30	118.80	+ 1.60	1.68
American Inc	105.40	107.70	+ 0.99	1.88
Account Reserve	100.40	101.40†	+ 0.90	6.66
-do- Inc	76.36	77.14†	+ 0.69	6.66
American Growth	78.70	78.65†	+ 1.38	..
Equity Income #	113.70	116.00	+ 0.90	4.49
European	88.45	90.36	+ 2.23	0.17
Smaller Cos	101.60	108.60	+ 1.20	1.13
W'wide Eqty	81.82	83.47†	+ 1.69	..
Global Bond	42.13	42.63†	+ 0.26	5.16
UK Growth	125.30	128.60	+ 1.20	1.26
Pacific Growth	128.60	133.50	- 0.40	0.19
Japan Growth	84.73	86.62	+ 3.29	..
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Mutual Equity	161.75	172.07	+ 2.66	2.37
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 839 8282				
UK Growth	97.29	103.49†	+ 0.70	2.32
UK Income	137.40	145.10	+ 1.90	4.09
Higher Income	264.29	281.00	+ 3.30	6.34
Smaller Cos	114.80	122.10	+ 1.59	1.45
International	118.20	125.70	+ 1.89	1.34
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	143.10	150.60	+ 3.50	0.18
European Dist	163.50	172.10	+ 2.10	0.32
Far East Dist	182.90	192.59†	+ 2.70	..
Global Care Dist	93.27	98.18	+ 1.38	0.32
Oseas Dist	1179.90	1242.00	+25.10	0.32
-do- Accum	1533.70	1614.40	+32.80	0.32
UK Dist	466.30	490.80	+ 5.10	2.04
-do- Accum	956.90	1007.20	+10.40	2.04
UK Extra Inc Dist	101.30	106.60†	+ 0.64	3.63
Wwide Dist	123.10	129.60	+ 3.10	0.13
Wwide Inc Dist	82.41	87.27	+ 1.48	1.83
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 306				
Europa Inc	87.50	92.86	+ 1.26	0.65
Fund of Funds Inc	73.49	77.59†	+ 1.10	1.88
North America Inc	76.09	80.21	+ 2.78	0.31
UK Equity Gth Inc	74.25	78.28	- 0.14	2.58
-do- Accum	80.88	85.15	- 0.18	2.58
UK General Inc	72.86	76.99	+ 0.84	2.69
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	48.80	51.18†	+ 0.21	5.45
UK Income Inc	70.87	74.80†	+ 0.63	4.08
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	59.52	63.34	+ 1.59	...
-do- Accum	59.98	63.81	+ 1.60	...
Bond	131.10	139.10	+ 2.05	5.00
Cash Income	50.63	50.63	+ 0.05	5.30
-do- Accum	70.17	70.17	+ 0.07	5.30
Distributor	112.15	119.30	+ 1.85	2.77
European	62.37	66.35	+ 1.21	..
Foundation	117.79	125.29	+ 1.79	2.44
General Inc	238.61	253.84†	+ 4.65	1.60
General Acc	242.08	257.51†	+ 4.15	1.60
Global	433.03	460.67	+14.27	..
Growth Inc	154.41	164.25	+ 2.67	2.02
Growth Acc	180.43	189.54	+ 2.25	2.02
Higher Income Inc	54.70	57.73	+ 0.54	4.20
-do- Accum	43.22	45.97	+ 0.66	4.20
Income	293.81	311.71†	+ 6.80	3.19
Intrepid	160.29	166.95	+ 4.50	1.59
Intl Gwth	42.03	44.71	+ 1.68	..
Japan	24.37	25.88	+ 1.59	...
Oriental Inc	155.00	164.89	+ 2.41	0.35
-do- Accum	160.55	170.79	+ 2.49	0.35
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	51.50	54.50†	+ 0.66	5.89
UK Growth	123.20	130.40†	+ 1.20	2.49
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Fund	150.64	158.78	+ 2.33	0.88
UK Equity	185.93	195.72	+ 2.17	2.77
UK Equity Income	167.26	176.08	+ 2.46	2.98
UK Smaller Cos.	156.29	164.52†	+ 1.01	1.20
UK Equity Growth	166.97	175.76	+ 2.17	0.93
UK Index Trckg	184.74	194.98	+ 1.31	2.48
Intl Index Trckg	179.84	189.59	+ 6.81	0.75
International	291.24	306.57	+ 7.82	0.66
European	272.94	287.30†	+ 3.97	0.01
Pan European	181.45	191.00	+ 2.78	1.07
Nth American	272.43	286.77	+13.22	0.40
N Amer Smlr Cos	272.48	286.74†	+ 7.89	..
Japanese	77.72	81.81	+ 4.31	..
Pacific	236.23	248.66	+ 2.42	0.42
South East Asian	290.97	306.28	- 3.09	0.43
Intl Bond	128.78	135.54†	+ 0.98	4.08
Gilt & Convertible	113.24	119.20†	+ 1.36	5.64
Property	85.15	90.66	+ 0.17	5.77
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	400.00	428.70	+ 5.00	...
-do- Accum	424.80	455.30	+ 5.30	...
Japan Inc	87.87	92.78	+ 4.43	..
Nth American Inc	174.70	185.70	+ 6.10	0.38
Worldwide Inc	196.60	218.50	+ 7.10	0.57
Hong Kong Inc	194.50	207.60	- 8.40	0.63
Swiss Equities Inc	88.96	94.93	+ 1.97	..
Wwide Bond Inc	68.47	72.39	+ 0.50	4.78
Emging Asia Inc	201.80	215.10	+ 8.00	..
-do- Accum	202.50	219.80	+ 6.10	..
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.88	50.88†	+ 0.04	5.18
Thailand Inc	88.39	94.77	- 4.16	2.00
New Zealand Inc	102.09	108.59	+ 1.80	2.06
Ivy Mngd PEP Inc	77.84	83.19	+ 1.64	0.77
Latin Am Cap Inc	76.16	82.08†	+ 4.85	0.40
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	77.88	78.66	+ 0.90	2.25
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Tradem	85.77	92.30	+ 1.06	..
Global Portfolio	76.08	81.37	+ 0.92	..
Global Opps	67.77	72.94	+ 1.43	..
Marsh Global Gth	68.15	72.27	+ 0.69	..
AMB Brit Gwth Inc	118.09	125.90	+ 1.50	1.21
Temple Equity Inc	52.12	56.36†	+ 0.75	4.84
Hedley Growth	126.10	134.18	+ 1.40	0.23
Intl Growth Inc	86.85	92.03	+ 0.55	0.27
IPS Portfolio Inc	98.21	102.90†	+ 1.90	..
Premier Pertner Inc	70.97	73.98†	+ 0.62	1.35
Roxburgh Strat Gth	80.69	86.30	+ 0.56	0.08
International Sims	86.13	91.63	+ 1.38	..
UFC Growth	65.70	70.27	+ 0.49	..
Chandlers Port of Fds	57.00	61.69	+ 0.72	..
Lowes Intl Growth	49.94	52.57	+ 0.44	1.49
PM UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3663				
Equity Gth	265.70	282.70	+ 8.10	1.36
European Gth	144.25	152.70	+ 3.30	0.44
Income & Gth #	172.40	183.40	+ 0.60	2.69
Japan Gth	88.21	93.84	+ 4.25	..
Nth Amer Gth	245.30	260.50	+10.38	..
Overseas Gth	129.50	137.70	+ 3.60	..
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	301.00	320.20	+ 2.40	1.80
-do- Accum	666.10	708.50	+ 5.30	1.80
Growth	197.30	207.80	+ 1.98	2.22
Income	292.30	310.80	+ 3.20	3.39
Intl Equity	294.70	313.50	+ 6.90	0.42
-do- Accum	330.00	351.00	+ 7.60	0.42
UK Income #	78.89	83.92†	+ 0.76	4.63
UK Intl 25	101.30	107.70	+ 1.10	1.49
New Europe	112.39	119.30	+ 1.40	.
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	744.73	785.97	+17.57	0.84
-do- Accum	749.35	800.85	+17.69	0.84
Income	492.93	527.20	+ 8.36	2.78
Wwide Recovery	487.65	521.76	+18.52	0.45
Amer Growth Inc	334.32	356.01†	+ 7.94	0.01
-do- Accum	334.32	356.01	+ 7.94	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	301.43	322.30	- 4.26	0.15
Far Estn Gth Inc	312.90	334.68	+ 5.70	0.87
-do- Accum	316.81	338.84	+ 5.77	0.87
Euro Gth Inc	207.80	221.96	+ 4.24	0.33
-do- Accum	208.61	222.85	+ 4.26	0.33
UK Growth Inc	128.78	137.53	+ 2.08	2.44
-do- Accum	133.22	142.32	+ 2.22	2.44
High Income	127.84	136.48†	+ 2.07	3.38
Jap Gwth Inc	157.55	168.51	+ 5.79	0.27
-do- Accum	157.55	168.51	+ 5.79	0.27
PEP Bond	57.99	60.60	+ 0.84	7.30
PEP Growth	157.35	168.27	+ 3.44	0.66
Asian Sir Mkts Inc	144.07	154.09†		0.06
-do- Accum	144.54	154.59	- 0.04	0.06
Amer Smlr Co Inc	210.78	225.34	+ 2.82	0.01
-do- Accum	210.78	225.34	+ 2.82	0.01
Global Bond	56.46	58.51	+ 0.26	5.20
UK Smaller Cos Inc	119.54	127.86	+ 2.04	1.40
-do- Accum	127.35	136.21	+ 2.19	1.40
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01194 201 3827				
American	145.80	155.19	+ 2.38	..
European	105.19	111.85†	+ 2.03	...
Global	73.69	78.39	+ 1.08	...
Pacific	57.97	61.57	+ 0.82	..
UK Inc & Gth	87.95	93.06	+ 0.75	1.64
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Asia Acc	52.51	55.86	+ 0.05	0.01
Emerg Mkts	51.75	54.76	+ 2.85	0.95
Fund of Funds Inc	208.88	221.15†	+ 2.23	0.54
Fund of Funds Acc	210.80	223.17	+ 2.37	0.54
High Income #	57.23	60.82†	+ 0.69	5.36
Performance	51.85	54.95	+ 0.61	..
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	198.46	202.62†	- 2.26	1.81
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 282 443				
American Income	137.20	145.08†	+ 3.70	2.67
Conv & Gilt	127.40	135.50	+ 0.40	4.54
European Income	92.69	98.59	+ 1.13	3.13
Extra Income	192.20	204.40†	- 0.20	4.46
-do- Accum	250.30	266.20	- 0.20	4.46
Far East	402.80	428.60	+ 0.80	0.21
-do- Accum	411.20	437.80	+ 0.80	0.21
Global Income	30.27	32.20†	+ 0.21	3.50
High Income	147.20	155.50	+ 0.70	4.14
-do- Accum	196.70	209.70	+ 1.00	4.14
International	227.20	241.70	+ 5.40	0.25
-do- Accum	236.60	251.70	+ 5.60	0.25
Pref & Fxd Int	46.91	49.90†	+ 0.61	6.87
Recovery	97.25	103.50	+ 1.30	2.17
Special Sits	162.20	172.60	+ 1.60	1.32
-do- Accum	181.00	192.60	+ 1.10	1.32
Technology	722.50	768.70		...
UK Blue Chip	96.73	102.50	+ 1.47	2.65
-do- Accum	113.30	120.50	+ 1.60	2.65
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dealing: 0345 835500 Client Enq: 0345 835500				
Managed Tst	47.72	49.45	+ 0.55	1.84
Cash Haven Inc	100.86	101.32†	+ 0.07	5.04
Cash Haven Acc	120.58	121.15	+ 0.09	5.04
Dist Trust Inc	112.18	118.25†	+ 1.18	5.30
Dist Trust Acc	128.01	133.69	+ 1.36	5.30
Global Growth	111.47	118.52†	+ 2.09	1.11
Equity Inc	96.91	103.10†	+ 0.44	4.24
Equity	963.32	1010.24	+11.55	2.24
European	288.44	303.28	+ 5.05	0.64
High Income	99.96	106.34	+ 1.11	4.77
Intl Gilt	232.86	247.72†	+ 6.34	0.91
Intl Sm Co	100.12	106.51	+ 1.75	0.44
Japanese	166.21	172.24	+ 6.69	..
Mgd Income Tst #	48.48	51.11	+ 0.43	7.87
Nth Amer	272.13	281.91	+11.77	0.98
Pacific Mkts	117.51	121.77†	- 1.98	0.98
Premier Inc	48.21	51.21†	+ 0.30	6.50
Sm Cos	117.82	125.02	+ 0.18	1.82
Spec Sits	137.63	146.41†	+ 0.80	2.36
UK Growth	161.64	171.98†	+ 0.68	2.27
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	91.57	96.29	- 0.97	3.45
Investment Trust	125.42	131.86	+ 1.56	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	122.05	128.34†	+ 0.68	1.33
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	289.20	300.80	+ 6.70	2.72
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
Five Arrows Funds				
America (Inc)	731.28	776.13	+23.42	..
America (Acc)	866.84	988.29	+27.44	..
Amer Smllr Cos	69.42	78.84	+ 1.72	..
Asia	56.76	60.81	+ 0.09	..
European	448.38	475.27	+ 8.77	0.09
Japan	185.10	196.86	+ 9.19	...
Jap Smllr Cos	29.82	31.78	+ 0.06	..
Major UK Cos	130.80	139.15†	+ 0.96	1.47
Smllr UK Cos	448.91	485.99	+ 3.64	0.85
UK Equity Inc #	207.42	215.19	+ 2.32	4.02
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	54.16	56.56	+ 0.17	..
Cash	48.21	50.21	+ 0.02	2.84
Emerging Mkts	52.85	55.19	+ 1.20	...
Europe	67.51	70.50	+ 1.42	...
Global Fixed Int #	50.23	52.45	+ 0.26	5.11
Japan	33.60	35.09	+ 1.12	..
North America	73.62	76.88	+ 1.26	..
UK	71.18	74.33	+ 0.48	0.40
UK Equity Inc #	88.58	90.53	+ 0.73	3.45
UK Fixed Int #	52.59	54.92	+ 0.49	6.59
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	54.12	56.68	+ 0.74	..
Pep Inc Port #	*54.59*	*56.15*	*+ 0.55*	*4.12*
RAM Personal Pension				
Deposit	91.75	96.58	+ 0.08	..
Gilt	107.21	112.85	+ 0.81	..
Managed	124.62	131.17	- 0.21	...
Portfolio	53.19	55.98	+ 0.52	...
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	135.60	144.10	+ 4.00	0.29
Pacific Basin	80.47	85.43	+ 1.48	0.39
High Inc Dist	177.80	188.70	+ 2.40	3.75
Ryl Life Intl Clary	66.58	70.64	+ 0.93	3.71
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	62.22	67.58	+ 2.86	0.07
Ryl Life Intl Spec	74.88	79.63	+ 1.35	..
UK Emerging Cos	154.20	169.70	+ 1.20	1.24
UK Index Trckg	216.60	230.20	+ 2.60	3.45
European	188.00	201.30	+ 3.20	0.17
Managed	195.30	209.90†	+ 3.20	0.84
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 784 400				
American Growth	218.00	231.50†	+ 9.00	1.06
European Growth	150.80	159.80†	+ 1.90	1.76
Far East Growth	158.50	167.80†	+ 0.80	0.75
Japan Growth	98.27	104.50	+ 2.08	...
Special Sits	362.30	380.30	+ 2.30	1.64
UK Growth	113.98	121.10	+ 1.02	2.58
Intl Growth	296.40	315.40	+ 6.30	1.63
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6600				
Far East Inc	175.20	185.40	+ 2.20	0.50
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	481.00	508.60	+ 3.30	0.21
-do- Accum	754.80	798.70	+ 6.20	0.21
Growth Inc	164.00	173.50	+ 1.90	0.55
-do- Accum	168.60	178.40	+ 1.90	0.55
International Inc	431.70	458.80	+ 4.70	0.38
-do- Accum	587.30	622.10	+ 6.60	0.38
Nth Am & Intl Inc	431.00	456.10	+ 5.70	1.90
UK Gen Prog Inc	276.40	292.50	+ 4.40	0.82
-do- Accum	320.30	338.90	+ 5.10	0.82
UK High Inc Inc	161.60	171.00	+ 1.10	4.20
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	135.92	144.58	- 8.31	0.75
European Gwth	162.27	169.78	+ 1.35	1.00
Global Bd	61.37	64.80	+ 0.43	5.00
Japan	44.32	47.14	+ 2.81	...
UK Gwth	97.82	103.64	+ 1.12	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smllr Cos	159.00	169.10†	+ 3.60	..
Cash	137.20	137.20	+ 0.10	5.53
China Dragon	73.62	78.32	- 1.85	1.13
Commodity	152.80	162.39	+ 3.30	..
Emerging Mkts	41.54	44.19	+ 1.40	0.41
European Gwth	267.80	284.70	+ 4.30	0.59
Euro Smllr Cos	78.25	83.26	+ 0.30	..
Extra Income #	80.88	83.08†	+ 0.50	5.74
Far Eastern	100.30	106.70	+ 0.90	..
FE Sm Cos	42.20	44.89	+ 1.86	...
Financial Secs	366.50	389.90	+12.60	1.08
Gold & Exploration	97.01	103.20†	+ 2.00	..
Growth	487.00	489.40†	+ 6.40	1.70
High Income	51.03	51.69†	+ 0.55	6.88
Intl Bond	167.30	172.40	+ 0.90	5.09
ITU	254.20	270.40	+ 4.20	0.95
Japan Growth	131.09	139.20	+ 3.98	...
Japan Smaller	134.60	143.20	+ 6.60	...
Korea	40.76	43.36	+ 0.53	...
Latin America	47.17	50.18	+ 2.74	0.39
Masterfund	67.53	67.87	+ 0.78	0.85
Premier Eq Gth	181.70	193.30	+ 0.99	1.00
Premier Eq Inc #	397.30	422.70	+ 4.50	4.40
SE Asia	51.84	55.15	- 0.13	0.92
Southern Africa	57.21	60.86	+ 1.86	1.30
UK & O'seas	213.80	227.50	+ 3.10	0.79
UK Eqty Gth	92.65	98.44	+ 0.40	1.27
UK Eqty Inc #	288.00	309.00†	+ 5.30	4.55
UK Gth & Inc #	324.00	344.70†	+ 3.50	2.67
UK Sm Cos	85.33	90.50†	+ 1.65	0.90
US Growth	242.40	257.90	+10.10	...
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Bdsr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	391.72	414.13	+11.79	0.58
-do- Accum	432.61	456.63	+13.06	0.50
European Gwth	98.03	103.87	+ 1.71	0.51
Euro Smllr Cos	121.03	128.62	+ 1.65	0.26
Far Eastern Gth	105.58	112.61†	+ 0.98	..
-do- Accum	107.85	114.83†	+ 1.00	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	55.16	58.11	+ 0.82	7.20
Global Bond #	47.64	49.22†	+ 0.30	6.43
-do- Accum #	58.27	60.20†	+ 0.37	6.43
Global Emer Mkts	58.72	62.70	+ 0.75	...
-do- Accum	58.76	62.76	+ 0.75	...
Income #	458.82	488.40	+ 3.35	4.52
-do- Accum #	£15.54	£16.57	+11.36	4.52
Japan Smllr Cos	306.00	325.32†	+ 0.96	...
-do- Accum	305.61	325.98†	+ 0.96	...
Japan Enterprise	50.94	54.33	+ 2.37	..
Pacific Gwth	169.50	180.30†	+ 0.46	0.32
-do- Accum	176.30	188.05†	+ 0.48	0.32
Portfolio	100.89	107.53†	+ 1.25	1.54
-do- Accum	113.04	120.49†	+ 1.41	1.54
Seoul	34.54	36.84	+ 0.35	...
-do- Accum	34.54	36.84	+ 0.35	...
Smaller Cos	370.99	395.72	+ 2.87	0.99
Strategic Inc	105.57	113.52†	+ 0.88	2.76
Strategic Acc	108.37	115.44†	+ 0.91	2.76
Tokyo	107.82	115.00	+ 6.06	...
-do- Accum	108.91	116.16	+ 6.12	...
UK Enterprise	355.67	379.27†	- 2.53	1.96
-do- Accum	445.51	475.21†	- 3.17	1.96
UK Equity	330.15	352.15†	+ 2.86	2.35
-do- Accum	673.28	718.17†	+ 5.84	2.35
US Smllr Cos	248.25	264.79	+ 2.01	...
-do- Accum	248.25	264.79	+ 2.01	.
Institutional Funds				
European	313.45	325.20†	+ 5.88	1.13
-do- Accum	355.88	369.31†	+ 6.67	1.13
Euro Smllr Cos	39.62	41.18	+ 0.71	0.98
-do- Accum	42.83	44.42	+ 0.77	0.98
Global Equity Inc	97.44	101.48	+ 3.43	0.78
Japan Smllr Cos	27.89	28.94†	+ 0.27	0.10
-do- Accum	28.16	29.33†	+ 0.28	0.10
Mngd Balanced	238.09	248.01	+ 1.99	3.74
-do- Accum	270.79	281.44	+ 2.33	3.74
Overseas Equity	226.54	235.97†	+ 5.31	0.89
-do- Accum	238.60	248.53†	+ 5.59	0.89
Oseas Smllr Cos	142.47	148.49	+ 2.10	0.83
-do- Accum	150.72	157.09	+ 2.23	0.83
Pacific	301.80	314.45	- 1.19	1.23
-do- Accum	336.84	350.86	- 1.33	1.23
Recovery	225.15	228.20†	- 8.20	2.79
-do- Accum	527.99	529.14†	- 9.12	2.79
UK Index	262.32	218.74	+ 1.27	3.12
-do- Accum	263.13	274.08	+ 1.85	3.12
UK Small Cos	158.83	165.23	+ 0.78	2.23
-do- Accum	178.10	183.49	+ 0.87	2.27
US Smllr Cos	69.44	72.31	+ 0.25	0.79
-do- Accum	71.34	74.28	+ 0.25	0.79
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2209				
Equity Income	63.66	67.34	+ 0.49	2.88
Equity Trust	83.18	87.88	+ 1.12	2.71
Equity Strategy	98.83	104.30	+ 0.27	1.30
European Opps	113.35	119.88	+ 1.09	0.11
UK Smaller Cos	87.25	92.27	+ 0.18	0.79
Moderate Inc	98.29	103.65	+ 0.08	6.51
Japanese	58.89	62.28	+ 2.23	..
Asia Pacific	129.29	136.72	+ 0.92	0.33
American	154.07	162.93	+ 5.69	0.03
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	33.84	33.84†	+ 0.03	5.62
UK General Inc	67.60	72.15†	+ 1.80	3.08
-do- Accum	91.65	97.91†	+ 1.36	3.03
Intl Income	319.28	330.89†	+ 8.70	1.41
-do- Accum	548.82	583.89†	+15.30	1.41
European	113.70	120.52†	+ 1.49	1.58
Japan	51.67	54.73†	+ 2.26	0.24
American	115.46	119.98†	+ 4.82	1.15
Far East	90.20	95.30	- 0.84	1.24
Ethical Inc	45.15	48.23†	- 0.09	1.56
UK Blue Chip Inc	42.80	45.82†	+ 0.84	3.43
High Inc Inc	44.97	47.95†	+ 0.81	4.16
UK Global Inc	51.63	55.02†	+ 1.09	1.82
Wwide Tech	88.75	94.43	+ 2.49	1.10
Europe 2000 Tscr	78.32	83.29	+ 1.04	0.99
Technology	169.32	180.28	+ 5.06	0.74
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	528.60	563.20	+ 5.20	2.84
American	394.40	420.20	+16.00	0.24
Pacific	392.50	418.20	+ 6.10	0.21
European	729.10	779.80	+ 6.70	0.62
Worldwide	104.10	111.30	+ 2.30	0.29
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	356.00	378.00	+ 2.80	2.10
-do- Accum	471.80	502.10	+ 3.50	2.10
UK Sr Co Eq Inc	310.20	330.10	+ 4.40	1.25
-do- Accum	383.60	408.10	+ 5.40	1.25
Select Quality Inc	92.96	99.42	+ 1.26	1.84
Income Plus Inc	89.71	95.44	+ 1.25	3.15
European Inc	474.00	504.60	+ 7.40	0.70
-do- Accum	547.10	581.80	+ 8.50	0.70
Far Eastern Inc	185.60	197.50	- 1.60	1.09
-do- Accum	215.30	229.10	- 1.80	1.09
Japanese Inc	49.33	52.49	+ 2.70	...
Nth American Inc	369.90	393.40	+12.20	0.35
-do- Accum	409.30	435.20	+13.40	0.35
Intl Growth Inc	238.70	251.98	+ 3.60	0.52
Wwide Venture Inc	96.60	102.80	+ 2.10	0.71
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	481.50	513.50	+ 4.50	2.38
-do- Accum	738.70	787.80	+ 6.90	2.38
UK High Inc	235.00	250.70	+ 2.40	2.21
-do- Accum	364.70	383.00	+ 3.80	2.21
Europe Inc	512.60	546.70	+14.70	0.21
Nth Amer Inc	367.20	391.60	+18.80	...
Global Inc	269.90	284.70	+10.40	..
Global Acc	289.80	308.00	+11.28	..
UK Spec Sits Inc	147.20	157.80	+ 1.60	1.52
South East Asia	229.80	245.10	- 0.60	0.21
Cash Trust Inc	100.90	100.90	+ 0.10	5.44
UK Smllr Cos Inc	134.60	143.60	+ 0.10	1.59
-do- Accum	142.50	151.90		1.59
Intl Bond Inc	90.55	96.13	+ 0.96	5.12
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	175.80	185.10†	+ 3.90	0.42
Nth American	157.90	165.20†	+ 5.80	
Intl Bond & Conv	131.40	138.30†	+ 1.10	6.30
Pooled Pension (E)	252.10	271.10	+ 2.70	1.87
Smaller Cos	130.80	137.70	+ 1.90	0.85
UK General #	182.70	192.30	+ 2.10	1.95
Far Eastern	90.83	95.40	+ 1.51	..
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Continental	97.63	102.50†	+ 1.70	0.91
Global Gwth	89.54	88.35	+ 2.24	1.14
Inv Tst Port	81.14	85.04	+ 0.67	2.37
Managed	£14.10	£14.79†		1.56
Prof Inc #	110.80	117.60†	+ 0.70	5.24
Smaller Cos	298.70	315.60†	+ 0.50	0.85
Instand SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	109.65	...	+ 0.72	4.39
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.86	...	+ 0.08	5.61
Corporate Inc ‡	104.42	...	+ 0.35	5.14
Tal Pan ‡	120.17	...	+ 1.50	.
Aztec ‡	76.46	...	+ 3.84	..
Amer Gth Fund ‡	145.94	..	+ 6.69	..
European ‡	175.16	...	+ 3.73	.
Global Bond ‡	90.27	...	+ 0.90	7.63
Summit ‡	49.76	..	+ 2.53	.
UK Growth ‡	115.34	...	+ 0.84	2.49
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	113.24	..	+ 1.09	2.49
Investment Trust ‡	118.45	...	+ 2.09	1.41
The Football Fd ‡	100.00	.		
Reserve Roll Up ‡	97.68	..	+ 0.32	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	445.60	471.50	+ 1.90	
Capital	156.00	165.70	+ 2.20	1.03
Cash	101.79	101.79	+ 0.09	5.57
European	180.30	190.60	+ 3.50	0.45
Far Eastern	157.70	166.90	+ 2.90	0.07
Growth	182.40	193.00	+ 1.60	0.97
Income #	149.80	158.50	+ 1.90	4.82
Magnum	164.90	175.30	+ 2.30	1.10
Smllr Secs	619.10	655.10	+ 5.10	0.17
Thoroughbred	191.30	204.50†	+ 2.60	1.12
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Cntrld Primrose	58.75	62.77†	+ 0.17	7.00
Ethical	90.63	96.93	+ 1.61	0.83
European Growth	87.96	93.27	+ 1.45	.
Income	67.17	71.83	+ 0.70	3.22
Intl Growth	115.90	123.90	+ 3.70	0.06
Managed	98.38	104.90	+ 2.30	0.25
UK Growth	83.95	89.78†	+ 1.11	1.31
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	49.43	49.69†	+ 0.85	1.00
Global Advtg Acc	54.04	54.32	+ 0.93	1.00
Income Advtg Inc	38.34	38.54	+ 0.63	2.87
Income Advtg Acc	46.26	46.50	+ 0.74	2.87
UK Equity Gth Acc	112.80	119.40	+ 1.40	0.98
Premier Inc Inc	51.19	53.86	+ 0.64	6.91
Premier Inc Acc	55.65	58.56	+ 0.70	6.91
Managed Acc	68.85	72.99	+ 1.21	1.24
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	45.18	47.90	+ 0.79	3.54
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	60.23	63.85	+ 1.05	3.54
UK Smlr Cos Acc	*49.69*	52.69	+ 0.54	0.25
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	88.53	91.94	+ 1.01	1.73
UK Equity Gen Inc	61.95	65.63	+ 0.72	1.73
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	32.89	34.79	+ 0.30	6.23
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	374.30	406.20	+10.40	1.24
Nth American Acc	65.05	69.12	+ 2.33	.
Pacific Basin	47.09	50.04	+ 0.05	0.31
European Acc	65.06	69.13	+ 1.32	0.37
Japan Acc	21.82	23.19	+ 0.85	.
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (US$)	4.786	5.061†	+ 0.03	1.82
US Eqts (US$)	3.776	4.004	+ 0.02	0.75
Far East Eqts (yen)	244.90	260.10	+ 3.90	...
FT Europe	165.70	176.60	+ 0.50	1.12
FT N Amer (US$)	2.948	3.121	- 0.01	...
FT Japan (yen)	189.30	200.00	- 0.50	..
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	3.107	3.300	- 0.01	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	557.80	591.10	+10.40	...
British #	1403.00	1484.40	+ 8.00	2.84
Emerging Mkts	181.70	193.50	+ 1.80	0.66
Euro Small Co	65.31	69.55	+ 0.61	0.60
Japan	105.09	111.50	+ 4.30	.
New Pacific	452.80	482.20	- 3.20	1.11
-do- Accum	487.39	518.80	- 3.50	1.11
Inv Trust Acc	319.80	339.90	+ 3.60	1.18
Mngd Equity	216.40	227.90	+ 2.90	1.87
Mngd Cash	95.83	95.83	+ 0.08	5.40
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
Equity	1181.00	1263.80†	+16.00	1.45
North America	212.00	226.70†	+ 6.20	0.04
Far East	169.89	181.80†	+ 2.30	0.26
Wwide Bond	57.72	61.25	+ 0.39	5.43
European	163.39	174.60	+ 2.70	0.19
Equity Income #	119.40	127.60	+ 1.40	4.53
Portfolio	120.40	128.70	+ 1.70	1.19
UK Leading Cos	86.97	92.76	+ 1.34	2.22
High Inc Bond	50.99	51.07†	+ 0.30	6.23
Broker Trusts				
Intel Equity	80.70	86.31	+ 0.82	..
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Autumn UT	24.70	28.28	- 0.49	0.32
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	101.52	108.00	+ 1.30	6.83
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	106.12	112.90	+ 1.36	6.83
European	56.09	59.66†	+ 1.42	0.23
High Income	37.71	40.12	+ 0.01	3.65
Japan	29.28	31.13†	+ 1.72	0.01
Managed Assets	152.31	162.80†	+ 1.58	2.28
North American	51.11	54.38†	+ 2.11	0.21
Smlr Co's Inc	40.51	43.10†	+ 0.03	1.98
Smlr Co's Acc	44.50	47.35†	+ 0.03	1.98
UK Growth Inc	68.74	73.13†	- 0.05	2.23
UK Growth Acc	78.53	83.55†	- 0.02	2.23
UK Income	48.86	52.28	+ 0.09	3.00
Worldwide Gth	43.87	46.92†	+ 1.16	0.01
SLC Pensions Funds				
Asian & Oceanic Ex	33.85	35.01	+ 0.07	1.33
European Exmpt	109.40	112.79	+ 7.63	0.83
Japan Exmpt	24.95	25.73	+ 1.53	0.18
US Exmpt	106.49	109.79	+ 2.83	1.01
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	60.10	63.94	+ 0.76	.
Cap Protector Inc	52.33	55.67	+ 0.98	2.78
UK Income Inc	66.82	71.09	+ 0.65	3.80
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	37.13	39.26	+ 0.38	6.69
Mngd High Yld Inc	98.09	104.35	+ 0.83	4.42
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	96.15	102.29	+ 1.14	3.29
UK Smaller Cos	45.02	47.89	+ 0.37	1.70
Pacific Grth Pen	53.83	57.27	- 0.87	0.69
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 349 794				
American	348.04	369.36	+11.99	...
-do- Accum	384.45	406.83	+13.21	.
Brit Growth	131.57	139.22	+ 1.20	1.45
-do- Accum	164.55	174.13	+ 1.63	1.45
European	139.58	147.70	+ 2.27	..
-do- Accum	149.09	157.76	+ 2.42	.
Extra Income #	226.77	239.98	+ 2.52	4.53
-do- Accum #	417.07	441.34	+ 4.65	4.53
Smaller Cos	99.88	105.69	+ 0.21	0.54
-do- Accum	114.51	121.17	+ 0.24	0.54
General	384.97	407.37†	+ 3.19	1.70
-do- Accum	829.77	878.06†	+ 6.87	1.70
Premier Income	52.98	55.19†	+ 0.54	6.11
-do- Accum	135.51	141.15†	+ 1.34	6.11
Income #	406.39	430.04	+ 3.77	3.34
-do- Accum #	954.91	£10.10	+ 8.87	3.34
Pacific	398.52	421.71	+ 3.97	0.10
-do- Accum	418.74	443.11	+ 4.17	0.10
International	658.16	696.46	+15.37	0.10
-do- Accum	867.21	917.68	+20.25	0.10
Nat Resources	181.45	192.01	+ 3.44	0.33
Sktd Opps	138.20	146.25	+ 2.50	0.99
-do- Accum	182.48	193.10	+ 3.43	0.99
Environmental Inv	90.51	95.77†	+ 1.38	0.52
Selector	80.30	84.98	+ 0.87	1.31
-do- Accum	93.83	99.29	+ 1.01	1.31
High Income #	74.20	78.52†	+ 0.84	4.37
-do- Accum #	102.97	108.96†	+ 1.17	4.37
Intl Income	63.78	67.49	+ 0.33	4.59
-do- Accum	85.22	90.18	+ 0.44	4.59
Selector Income	70.63	74.74	+ 0.66	4.18
-do- Accum	89.78	95.01	+ 0.84	4.18
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1018				
British	450.04	473.73	+ 3.63	2.16
European	83.97	87.93	+ 1.84	1.24
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	253.45	268.23†	+ 3.32	2.13
Glob Balncd Inc	208.08	220.21	+ 1.63	3.46
Value Tst Inc	157.94	167.13	+ 2.83	1.98
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	41.47	43.13	+ 0.03	6.10
European Growth	369.04	386.42	+ 8.48	0.90
Exempt	735.89	767.78†	+ 3.40	3.00
Global Em Mkts	92.89	98.31	+ 3.09	0.59
Japan Tst	68.33	71.54	+ 4.86	.
Little Dragons	116.75	122.25	+ 0.27	...
Nth Amer Gwth	344.73	360.97†	+17.21	0.40
Oriental Income #	49.06	51.37	+ 0.91	3.60
Preference	138.25	144.76	+ 1.94	8.20
Tiger	312.81	327.54	+ 0.04	.
UK Blue Chip	85.71	89.74†	+ 1.53	1.70
UK Growth	734.17	769.76	+ 3.23	0.59
UK High Yield #	127.20	133.19†	+ 1.24	5.20
UK Mid-Cap	366.88	384.14	- 2.71	1.60
UK Smllr Cos	154.53	161.81	- 1.17	0.69
UK Smllr Cos Div #	97.03	101.60†	+ 0.45	5.40
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Equity Income #	123.56	131.77	+ 0.49	4.75
UK Equity Growth	111.51	118.63	+ 0.59	2.69
European	84.18	89.55	+ 1.67	1.23
Nth American	96.37	102.52	+ 2.35	0.11
Far Eastern	75.97	80.82†	+ 1.82	0.71
Money	72.69	72.69	+ 0.05	4.77
Fixed Interest #	83.56	88.89	+ 0.92	7.72
Index Linked Gilt	76.26	81.13	+ 1.44	1.18
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	108.81	108.81	+ 0.22	8.55
Pens Growth	108.78	108.78	+ 0.75	
Pens Inc Protct	104.51	104.51	+ 0.20	.
UK Index Tracking @	142.26	142.26	+ 0.98	2.50
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0151 831 7455				
Australasian Gold	28.69	30.19†	+ 1.27	.
Pacific Basin	41.84	44.04	+ 0.37	..
Global Bond (US$)	0.9337	0.9726	+ 0.00	.
Penny Share	46.66	49.12	- 0.27	..
Japan Smlr Cos	32.98	34.72	+ 0.87	..
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 3444				
Challenger	92.08	95.09	+ 0.59	..
Short Dtd Gilt	135.50	138.10	+ 0.10	...
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7919	0.8022	+ 0.00	..
Gilt Income	52.34	54.46	+ 0.27	5.80
Gilt Growth	78.91	83.14	+ 0.51	.
Sterling Bond	50.84	52.51	+ 0.45	6.50
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	58.36	63.02	+ 1.27	1.08
UK Stockmarket	110.70	117.80	+ 2.00	2.39
Corporate Bd Inc	50.71	50.88	+ 0.48	6.42
Do Accum	52.33	52.43	+ 0.50	6.42

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

Equities end the week steady

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq	430	+ 4½	6.9	13.0
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	608½		2.8	18.1
131	63½	Burn Stewart	67		6.3	71.2
980	615	Glenmorangie A	980		1.6	26.1
496	411	Grand Met	455	+ 7	4.4	14.7
480	424	Guinness	430		4.3	13.6
380	315	Highland Dist	361½		2.9	17.4
303	255½	Matthew Clark	291½	+ 2½	10.3	13.9
141	91½	Merrydown W	107½		5.3	14.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1096½	..	1.9	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4209¾	2743¼	ABN-AMRO	4209¾	+106¼	2.8	17.1
811	528	Abbey Ntl	781½	− 12	3.7	14.5
454	315	Allied Irish	454	+ 1½	4.0	
399¼	295	Aus New Z	392¼	+ 12	4.8	..
7587½	3843¾	Bank America	7587½	+488¾		
373¾	227½	Bank Scotland	349	− 4	2.8	12.8
1226	683	Barclays	1216	+ 18½	2.9	13.3
615	413	Bk of Ireland	615	+ 5	3.4	13.9
7612½	4031¼	Citicorp	7612½	+308¾		
1575	1259¾	Commerzbk	1268¾	+ 6¼	3.5	
1350	608¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	625	− 3¼	0.7	
3412½	2708¾	Deutsche Bk	3185¾	+ 46¾	2.1	..
846¾	595¾	Espirito Santo	846¾	+ 21¼	4.8	11.9
1507	600¾	Fuji Bank Y	623¼	− 2	0.7	
1560½	927	HSBC	1541½	+ 17	3.1	14.8
1520½	930	HSBC HK	1485½	+ 12¼	3.2	14.1
580	385	Irish Perm	572½		2.5	15.7
506	294½	Lloyds TSB	503½	+ 1½	3.3	15.5
781½	566	Nat Aust Bk	781½	+ 47¼	5.2	10.7
844¾	625½	Nat West	839		4.0	11.8
632½	454	Ryl Bk Scott	623½	− 5½	3.7	13.8
825½	547	Stand Chart	804	+ 5	1.9	15.7
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
365¼	264	Westpac	361½	+ 8¼	3.7	11.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	320	Electrocomponents	413	+ 1½	2.1	25.0
314	125½	Eurodis Elec	218½	+ 1	2.8	30.9
156	65	Eurodollar	148½		5.1	15.1
105	76	European Mtr	93	+ 1½	7.1	9.5
378	217	Evans Halshaw	257½		3.8	10.1
67	39½	Fife Indmar	53		7.8	7.9
386	238¼	Finelist Grp A	370	− ½	2.1	22.0
33¾	16½	Gardiner	31¼	+ ¼	3.9	
81	33½	[illegible]	74½		1.8	22.0
99¾	70½	Gowrings	88½		3.5	18.8
101	72	Harold	87		3.8	8.7
292	218	Harris (Philip)	246½		4.4	15.0
317½	208½	Headlam	314½		2.3	26.1
202	152	Holders Tech	151½		5.0	14.2
242½	153	IEA Intl	214		1.5	19.5
318	231	Inchcape	278½	+ 8	3.7	23.8
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
280	160	Kwik-Fit	221½	+ 1	2.9	17.8
380	298	Lex Service	319	+ 1	6.0	10.2
155	105	Lookers	108	− ½	9.7	6.9
17	10½	Malone Grp	12½	+ ½	5.6	13.4
8¼	5¼	Mediscan	7		1.4	10.7
47	31	Milestone	40½	− ½	0.7	
565	300	[illegible]	535½	+ 1	3.0	9.9
174½	115	Northumber	168½		1.1	9.9
370½	201½	Partco	367½	− 2	2.5	17.8
404½	272	Pendragon	330		3.0	18.9
211	145	Perry Gp	207½		5.0	10.6
752½	512½	Premier Farnell	532½	− ½	2.7	20.7
190	135	Quicks Group	149½	+ 2	5.4	11.2
348	185	REA	338	+ 2½	1.5	40.8
3	2	Reese	2½			
54	20	Reston	25	− 1	7.5	8.6
4½	2	Rose Gp	3½			
58	38½	SEP Indl	38½		6.1	8.6
185	55	Saltire	58½		2.1	19.0
417½	246	Time Products	410½		3.3	18.8
301½	123	UNIDOR	250	+ 6	2.4	17.9
352½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	332½		2.6	14.5
650	325	WF Elect	615		2.7	22.2
59	25¼	Wishaw	38½	− 1	2.7	11.7
172½	75½	Wyko	165	− ½	2.0	19.1
152½	104	Young (H)	151		3.5	13.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

MEDIA

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1731½	1380	Daily Mail	1684½		1.4	27.7
1668¾	1168¾	Daily Mail 'A'†	1606¼	+ 6¼	1.5	26.3
646	365	Dorling Kind	365	− 6¼	1.5	23.3
827½	530	EMAP	827½	+ 15	1.8	28.8
1488	1085½	EMI†	1199	+ 24	2.9	27.1
1091	845¾	Elsevier	961	+ 14¾	2.0	27.8
1515	1030	Euromoney Pbl	1420		4.0	19.8
49	19	Flics	48½			13.6
790	440	Flextech	790	+ 18	..	
251	198	GGT Group#	223		3.3	15.6

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
117	87½	Lon Scot Bnf	101	+ 2	3.7	
186	139	Man ED & F	181	− ½	7.1	9.7
1397½	1040½	M & G	1397½	+ 5	3.2	23.6
1407½	841	MAM	1324½	− 2½	3.7	22.2
164	90½	Nat Home Loan	162½	+ 2½	1.8	7.9
2695	1830	Perpetual	2685	+ 2½	2.7	19.9
547	395	Provident	545	+ 2½	3.4	20.5
336	302½	Rathbone Bs	322		4.1	14.4
67	49½	Rea Brothers	52½	− 1½	2.4	20.6
64¼	37½	Rutland Tst	61¾	− ½	2.6	18.3
122½	42	SEC Group	108	− ½	5.6	9.6
457	290	S & U	427		4.9	10.6
1782½	1185	Schroders	1750	− 5	1.2	19.9
1577½	890	Schroders NV	1537½		1.4	37.5
146½	99½	Singer & Fried	146	− ½	3.6	10.7
57	33	Towry Law	40½	+ 2½		
8	3½	Tuo Hldgs	4			
115½	71	Union	85½	− 3	4.4	9.2
360	268	Wintrust	335		4.9	15.6

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350	163¾	Bat Biotech	243	+ 4		
910	340	Cantab Pharms	845			
693	447	Celltech	662½	− 9		
589	224	Chiroscience	381			
447	149½	Cortecs	235½	− 3		
1050½	767	Glaxo Wellc	1050	+ 25½	3.6	18.8
475	194	ML Laboratories	239	+ 3		62.5
295	208	Medeva	278½	− 1	1.9	15.8
379	175½	Peptide Thera	336			
808	534	Scotia	709	+ 1½		
266	179	Shire Pharms	240½	− 1		36.5
96	69	SkyePharma	74			
904½	623½	SmithKline	894	+ 10½	2.1	32.4
532	299½	Therp Anti Inc	386			
692½	457½	Vanguard	692½	+ 7½		
290	192	Xenova	289			
1813½	1216	Zeneca	1796½	+ 5	2.2	39.1

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
209½	149½	MFI	185½	− 1	3.1	18.0
533	416½	Marks Spencer	487½	+ 2½	3.0	19.2
635	445	Menzies (John)	466½		3.7	12.0
29¾	15½	Merchant Retail	24¼			70.6
1337½	615	Moss Bros	1337½	+ 35	1.8	27.2
603½	420	Next	589	+ 7½	2.7	24.7
63	31½	Oliver (G)	34½	− ½		
556	400	[illegible]	507	+ 3	3.1	15.6
85½	66	Partridge Fine	70½		5.6	
56	28½	QS Hldgs	29½		6.6	
329	191	Rosebys	312½	+ 2½	2.4	23.4
105	80	Sears	83	− ½	5.9	67.6
34½	14½	Signet Group	30½	+ 2		
534	399	Smith (WH)	438	− 1	4.5	
1110	820	Sothebys	1017½		1.9	
362	245½	Storehouse	295½	− ½	3.2	19.7
157	90	Stylo	130		4.5	30.1
231	165½	T & S Stores	178	− 2	5.1	11.5
410	180½	[illegible]	205		8.1	18.4
188½	159	Tie Rack	187		1.9	18.6
4	2¾	Upton & South	3½			35.9
664	485	Vendome	493½		2.6	18.3
29½	12	WEW Group	22½	+ ½		
859½	159	Wickes	185			
94	52	Wd of Leather	87½		2.4	
252½	198	Wyevale	251½		2.9	18.8

SUPPORT SERVICES

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WATER

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BRITISH FUNDS

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	100[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.97	6.15
107[illegible]	105	Exch 10½% 1997	100[illegible]	..	10.49	
107[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	101[illegible]		8.63	6.19
114[illegible]	102[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	105[illegible]	− [illegible]	14.17	6.18
106[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	103[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.46	6.26
109[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	101	..	7.18	6.32
118[illegible]	109	Treas 14% 1998-01	109[illegible]	− [illegible]	12.84	6.41
122[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	113[illegible]	− [illegible]	13.64	6.40
114[illegible]	108	Exch 12% 1998	108[illegible]	− [illegible]	11.01	6.50
108[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	105[illegible]		9.03	6.54
116[illegible]	110[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	111	− [illegible]	11.04	6.59
112[illegible]	107	Treas 10½% 1999	108[illegible]		9.72	6.52
98[illegible]	95	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]		6.07	6.59
118[illegible]	107[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	108[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.41	6.66
108[illegible]	103[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.47	6.70
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	104[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.68	6.72
124[illegible]	117[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	118[illegible]		10.95	6.75
114	100[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.00	6.79
101[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.95	6.81
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	112[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.65	6.96
105[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.59	6.94
117[illegible]	11[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.65	7.00
121[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.88	6.83
86[illegible]	78[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	86[illegible]	− [illegible]	4.06	5.80
114[illegible]	107[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	114[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.30	7.04
98[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	98[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.85	7.00
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	109[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.79	7.09
122[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	114[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.28	7.09
131[illegible]	123[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	+ [illegible]	9.69	7.03
103[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	102[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.30	7.11
107[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	104[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.44	7.14
104[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	103[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.70	7.05
125[illegible]	115[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.58	7.01
110[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	109[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.74	7.14
114[illegible]	103[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	114[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.89	7.19
106[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.52	7.24
LONGS (over 15 years)						
91[illegible]	81[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	90[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.87	7.30
115[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.82	7.29
116[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.78	7.30
85[illegible]	75[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	85[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.44	7.06
107	96[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.51	7.32
104[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	104[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.43	7.35
107[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	107[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.47	7.29
115[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	114[illegible]		7.63	7.35
108[illegible]	95[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	107[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.42	7.30
UNDATED						
47[illegible]	41[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	47[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.36	
33[illegible]	29[illegible]	Treas 2½%	33[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.46	
54[illegible]	48[illegible]	Consols 4%	52[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.57	
***INDEX-LINKED** on projected inflation of*					10%	5%
114[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114[illegible]			1.72
187[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2001	187[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.37	3.01
184[illegible]	171[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	184[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.62	3.10
120[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	120	+ [illegible]	2.89	3.11
195[illegible]	179[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	195[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.85	3.17
176[illegible]	161[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	176[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.97	3.24
183[illegible]	166[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	182[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.06	3.29
150[illegible]	136[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	150[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.12	3.32
161[illegible]	145[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	160[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.18	3.37
154[illegible]	138[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	154[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.26	3.42
128[illegible]	115[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	128[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.28	3.42
126[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	126[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.28	3.43

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RACING: O'NEILL'S REJUVENATED CHASER CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FEATHER WEIGHT IN EIDER

Ivy House appeals in Newcastle test

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

STOCKBROKERS often rely on the adage that "the trend is your friend" when buying shares and the investment guideline can prove equally profitable in big races — notably the Tote Eider Chase at Newcastle this afternoon (4.10).

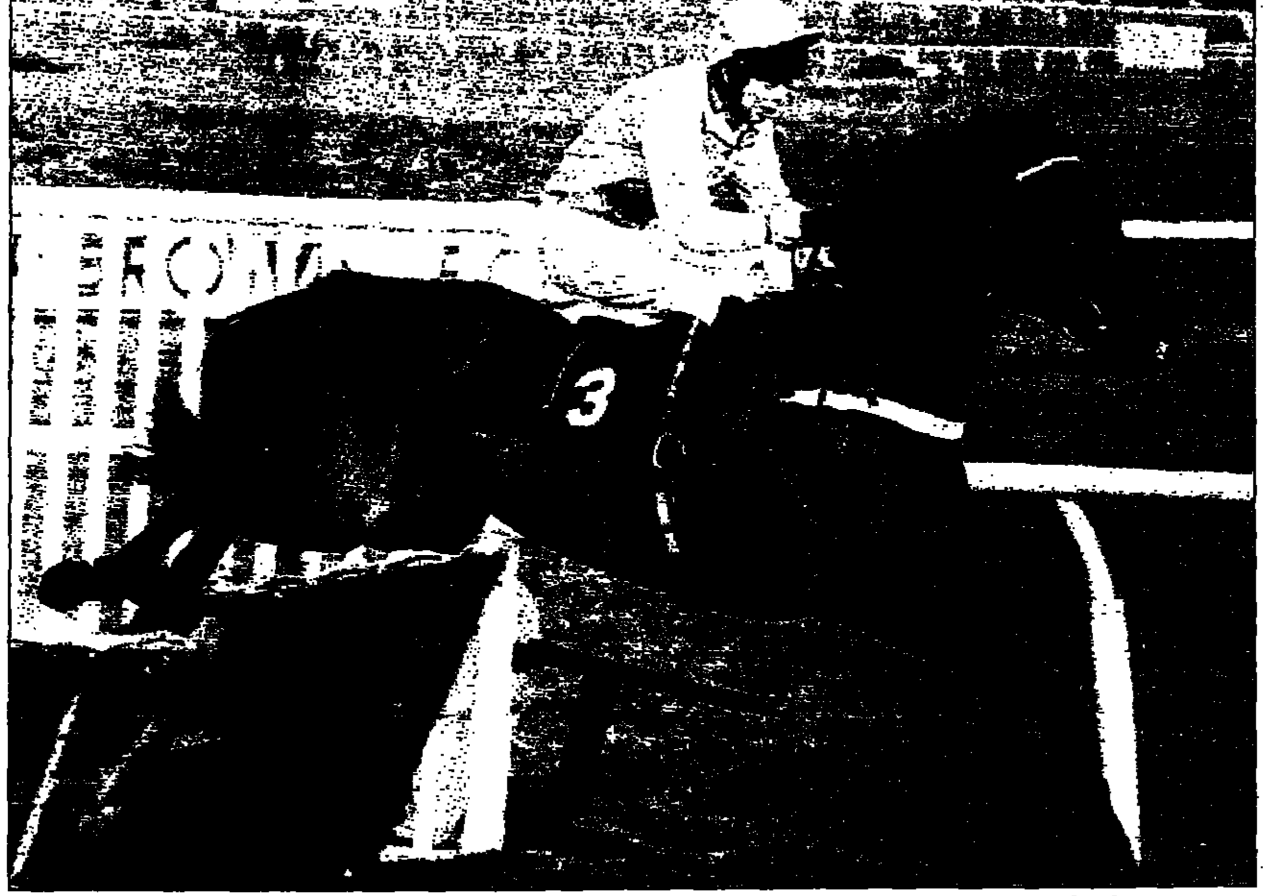
A quick examination of the credentials held by winners of the extended four-mile chase during the past decade shows they all had good recent form, having won one of their previous two starts, most had been successful over 3½ miles or more, and nearly all had a light weight for this contest.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

However, the weight argument could be vulnerable today because this is a below standard running of the Eider, which should benefit those nearer the top of the handicap. The three to concentrate on are Seven Towers, who won over four miles at Kelso last month; Parsons Boy, the winner of six of his last seven starts over fences; and Ivy House, who had a wind operation during the summer and has regained his confidence over fences. The Jonjo O'Neill-trained Ivy House, second to Cyborgo a couple of seasons ago and potentially well treated, is preferred at generous looking odds.

In the opening televised race at Newcastle (3.00), The Last Fling is well handicapped but needs to improve his jumping. Easby Joker, twice a course and distance winner this term, was outclassed at Doncaster last time. **Fiveleigh Builds** has plenty of pace so the step back in trip on this stiff track should not be an inconvenience. His recent Ayr success was boosted by the subsequent victory of the second, Whispering Steel.

Chief Minister is the clear form choice in the novice chase (3.35) but he is without a win for 18 months and comes from an out-of-form yard. **Nooran** might have beaten Bold Boss at Ayr 19 days ago but made a bad mistake in his first chase. Now 10lb better off, he is the value selection.



JULIAN HERBERT

Mighty Moss tackles the Colin Davies Persian War Premier Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow this afternoon

Livio has been raised 17lb for two victories and must show further improvement to follow up in the Gosforth Handicap Hurdle (4.45). Sea Victor has taken well to hurdles but may be better suited by flat tracks and preference is for the game **Celestial Choir** now that she steps up in trip.

At Warwick, a first attempt at an extended 2½ miles should suit Beaumont (2.50), who won over two miles on the Flat and looks potentially well treated. However, **Lets Be Frank** can win his fourth race this season after being far from disgraced in better company at Uttoxeter a week ago.

Mulligan is the proven performer in the novice chase (3.20), having won all four starts over fences, but the leading Arkle Trophy contender may find it difficult giving weight to **Squire Silk**. Andy Turnell's horses are in cracking form and the former high-class hurdler looked special at Newbury eight days ago.

King Pin is held in high regard by Peter Beaumont and, with his recent success at Ayr having been boosted by the subsequent victory of the runner-up, Paperising, he can successfully concede weight to his rivals, including Potter's Gale, in the Questor International Novices' Trial Hurdle (3.55).

Maamur, off the track since winning at the Cheltenham Festival, may be worth opposing with top weight over a trip short of his best in the Michael Page Finance Chase (4.30).

Nap: A N C EXPRESS
(2.45 Chepstow)
Next best: Around The Gale
(4.30 Warwick)

Senor El Betrutti is a bit of a thinker nowadays and **Around The Gale** looks well treated on his handicap debut.

At Chepstow, the soft ground will suit **Anzum** in a competitive opener (1.15) and he is marginally preferred to Cadougold and Brave Tornado, who is well treated on his form of two years ago and should appreciate today's longer distance.

Bells Life is turning into a Chepstow specialist, having won all four starts at the Welsh track, and he can oblige again at the main expense of the mud-loving Air Shot. **Boardroom Shuffle** should maintain his unbeaten record in the Colin Davies Persian Way Premier Novices' Hurdle (2.15) and justify his Champion Hurdle entry.

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER
1.15 Cadougold
1.45 Bells Life
2.15 Harbour Island
2.45 Nazzaro
3.15 Princeful
3.50 Cyborgo
4.25 Bankhead

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.15 BOARDROOM SHUFFLE.

GOING: SOFT SIS

1.15 M & N GROUP HURDLE BBC1

(Limited handicap: £7,022: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 41-3F45 HOME COUNTIES 29 (D,F,G,S) (Roxy Cinemas) D Moffatt 8-11-12 D J Moffatt 92
2 136/03-1 ANZUM 77 (G,S) (Old Foresters) D Nicholson 6-11-10 R Johnson 93
3 65113-0 STORM DAMAGE 7 (B,S) (Storm Damage) P Nicholls 5-11-9 D Bridgwater 98
4 P24/60-0 MOORISH 63 (S) (A Fitzpatrick) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8 C Llewellyn –
5 060-201 KADASTROF 14 (C,G,S) (A Paton) R Dickin 7-11-7 X Aizpuru (7) 94
6 005-300 THINKING TWICE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (E McGrath) N Henderson 8-11-6 R Farrant 94
7 253-341 CADOUGOLD 70 (CD,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-11-3 R Dunwoody [illegible]
8 20/0560 DR LEUNT 7 (S) (P Emery) P Hobbs 6-11-0 G Tormey 96
9 1166/0-5 BRAVE TORNADO 14 (S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 6-10-12 B Fenton 90
10 D02110- LYING EYES 313 (D,G,S) (R Heddnich) W G M Turner 6-10-10 J Power (7) 98
11 0111-6P ABBEY STREET 21 (S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 5-10-9 J Osborne 92
12 10153/5 SPARKLING CONE 22 (S) (Mrs M Horton) O Sherwood 8-10-5 C Maude –

BETTING: 3-1 Cadougold, 4-1 Anzum, 5-1 Home Counties, 7-1 Kadastrof, 8-1 Storm Damage, 10-1 Moorish, Brave Tornado 14-1 others

1996: THINKING TWICE 7-10-7 M A Fitzgerald (9-1) N Henderson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

HOME COUNTIES about 18l 4th of 8 to Space Trucker in grade II Fighting Fifth handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) penultimate start. ANZUM beat Burnt Imp head in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f, good). KADASTROF beat Amblesde 3l in 14-runner handicap hurdle here (2m 110yd, good) with BRAVE TORNADO (13lb better off) about 6¾l 5th. CADOUGOLD beat Sparkling Yasmin 3l in 8-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft). DR LEUNT 11¼l 6th of 14 to Forestal in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start with KADASTROF (9lb worse off) 6½l 9th. THINKING TWICE (2lb worse off) and ABBEY STREET (3lb worse off) pulled up. LYING EYES beat Mariners Mirror 17l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, soft) penultimate start, March 96.
Selection: KADASTROF

1.45 FLEDGLING CHASE BBC1

(£6,775 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 1121-6P NAHTHEN LAD 28 (G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-12 R Farrant [illegible]
2 12-1631 BELLS LIFE 14 (CD,G,S) (R Gibbs) P Hobbs 8-11-3 G Tormey 92
3 060225 MONTECOT 22 (BF,S) (M Connell) S Mellor 8-11-3 B Fenton –
4 123221- AIR SHOT 288 (G,S) (Mrs P Prowting) D Nicholson 7-11-0 R Johnson 85
5 4-12351 COOLREE 10 (B,F,G,S) (B Weston) P Nicholls 9-11-0 D Bridgwater 71

BETTING: 7-4 Bells Life, 9-4 Nahthen Lad, 7-2 Air Shot, 6-1 Montecot, 10-1 Coolree

1996. KINGS CHERRY 8-11-4 B Powell (10-1) R Buckler 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

NAHTHEN LAD beat Mr Mulligan 8l in the grade I 12-runner Sun Alliance Novice Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft) March 96. BELLS LIFE beat Seek The Faith 7l in 11-runner handicap chase here (2m 3f 110yd, good) MONTECOT 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Sea Victor in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. AIR SHOT beat Tothewoods 14l in 11-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, soft) COOLREE beat Spanish Light 2½l in 4-runner handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to firm).
Selection: BELLS LIFE

2.15 COLIN DAVIES PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOVICES HURDLE BBC1

(Grade II: £9,735: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 1-111 BOARDROOM SHUFFLE 21 (F,G,S) (A Weller) J Gifford 6-11-6 P Hide [illegible]
2 1U HARBOUR ISLAND 18 (D,BF,F) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-11-6 R Dunwoody 84
3 34-3121 LAGEN BRIDGE 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Milligan) D Moffatt 8-11-6 D J Moffatt 77
4 21-UU21 MARCHING MARQUIS 11 (D,F,S) (M Worcester) N Chance 6-11-6 R Johnson 78
5 33-1122 MIGHTY MOSS 21 (CD,BF,G,S) (K Hutsby) D Nicholson 6-11-6 Mr F Hutsby 87
6 21 FIDDLING THE FACTS 16 (S) (Mrs E Roberts) N Henderson 6-11-1 J Osborne 66
7 1/21U5-5 PARIS FASHION 32 (F,G,S) (P Kelsall) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-1 T Jenks 63
8 21124 SOLDAT 8 (S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 4-11-1 D Bridgwater 70

BETTING: 6-4 Boardroom Shuffle, 3-1 Mighty Moss, 4-1 Marching Marquis, 7-1 Lagen Bridge, 8-1 Harbour Island, Fiddling The Facts, 14-1 others

1996: JET RULES 6-11-6 W Marston (8-1) Mrs J Pitman 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOARDROOM SHUFFLE beat Potter's Gale 1½l in 12-runner novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). HARBOUR ISLAND beat Mr Christie 16l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. LAGEN BRIDGE beat Sir Bob 1½l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft). MARCHING MARQUIS beat Ryder Cup 15l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). MIGHTY MOSS beat Glitter Isle 6l in 15-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (soft) Nov 96. FIDDLING THE FACTS beat Royal Raven 10l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: MIGHTY MOSS

2.45 ASHFIELDS FARM HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,716: 3m 2f 110yd) (16 runners)

1 F114-F0 NAZZARO 29 (B,D,S) (A Moorish) W G M Turner 8-12-0 R Dunwoody 89
2 614-23P HAVE TO THINK 30 (BF,S) (B Kilby) P Nicholls 9-12-0 R Johnson 89
3 24U0/24 DAKYNS BOY 14 (D,G,S) (A Parker) N Twiston-Davies 12-11-11 C Llewellyn 95
4 600554- SCRIBBLER 292 (D,G,S) (M Farrant) G McCourt 11-11-10 D Bridgwater –
5 /542/P0 SHEER ABILITY 22 (B,G,S) (M Devlin) C Mann 11-11-9 J Magee (3) –
6 PU223-3 PLASTIC SPACEAGE 15 (C,D,G,S) (G Dalzell) J Old 14-11-4 G Upton [illegible]
7 U118/32 A N C EXPRESS 15 (C,D,S) (M O'Connor) J King 9-11-3 T J Murphy 94
8 545338 SPUFFINGTON 14 (C,G,S) (J Clapel) J Gifford 9-11-2 P Hide 93
9 20-3350 DOM SAMOURAI 15 (V,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 6-11-2 B Powell 90
10 F411-41 GIVENTIME 15 (G,S) (L Kimber) A Turnell 9-11-0 L Harvey 94
11 13/21/P TOP BRASS 22 (S) (Top Brass Partners) K Bailey 9-10-6 J Osborne –
12 5/242U2 ROCKY PARK 16 (S) (T Gasko) G Balding 11-10-0 B Fenton 94
13 31P-104 SPECIAL ACCOUNT 58 (F,G,S) (T Fiorillo) C Barwell 11-10-0 P Henley (3) 90
14 61-3B55 HOLY STING 25 (B,CD,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0 C Maude 83
15 1U- SPACE CAPPA 324 (G,S) (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 9-10-0 Miss V Stephens 86
16 44-3564 SHAMARPHIL 59 (F,S) (Miss S Barraclough) R Alner 11-10-0 Miss S Barraclough –

Long handicap: Rocky Park 9-12, Special Account 9-11, Holy Sting 9-9, Space Cappa 9-9, Shamarphil 9-0

BETTING: 4-1 Giventime, 5-1 A N C Express, 7-1 Dakyns Boy, Plastic Spaceage, 12-1 Have To Think, Spuffington, Dom Samourai, 14-1 others.

1996: CLASS OF NINETYTWO 7-10-10 R Dunwoody (11-4) T Forster 19 ran

3.15 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Qualifier: £2,514: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

1 503-516 TOMPETOO 32 (CD,BF,S) (T Pettifer) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10 C Llewellyn 87
2 BELMOREBRUNO (Mrs A Hartnell) M Pipe 7-11-0 C Maude –
3 0F DUKES CASTLE 93 (A Sim) P Frost 6-11-0 J Frost –
4 HIGHTECH TOUCH (Mrs J Stuart Evans) L Grassick 7-11-0 Mr J Grassick –
5 1410-05 JOHN DRUMM 56 (G,S) (A Jenkins) P Webber 6-11-0 J Osborne 73
6 2 LITTLE JAKE 93 (BF) (M Worcester) N Chance 7-11-0 R Johnson –
7 LIZZYS FIRST (Exe Valley Racing) B Millman 5-11-0 D Salter (5) –
8 1-15 PRINCEFUL 17 (G,S) (R Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 R Farrant 86
9 03-40 RHYTHM AND BLUES 102 (Mrs P Gregson) R Buckler 7-11-0 B Powell 79
10 10/00 SOUTHERNHAY BOY 15 (B,S) (D Coard) Mrs S Williams 6-11-0 B Fenton –
11 412-3 WISE KING 16 (G) (D Milne) J Old 7-11-0 G Upton [illegible]
12 2- CLOSE HARMONY 343 (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 5-10-9 R Dunwoody –

BETTING: 5-2 Tompetoo, 7-2 Princeful, 5-1 Belmorebruno, 7-1 Close Harmony, 8-1 Wise King, 10-1 John Drumm, 12-1 others

1996: AMBLESIDE 5-11-0 R Dunwoody (100-30) Mrs S Williams 11 ran

3.50 CLIVE GRAHAM NOVICES CHASE (£3,513: 3m) (16 runners)

1 12/14-11 CYBORGO 7 (D,G,S) (County Stores) M Pipe 7-12-0 R Dunwoody 95
2 3-31FF2 BUCKHOUSE BOY 7 (G,S) (Bawtry Boys) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8 C Maude [illegible]
3 15 CREDO IS KING 14 (G) (G Porter) P Webber 7-11-8 D Bridgwater 79
4 060-216 FOODBROKER STAR 14 (D,S) (Food Brokers) J Gifford 7-11-8 P Hide 87
5 U46-PP0 BALLYDOUGAN 18 (V) (Mrs R Mathew) R Mathew 9-11-2 T J Murphy –
6 BETTER FUTURE 301P (G,S) (C Hitchings) T Keddy 8-11-2 R Johnson –
7 5 CLONTOURA 66 (J Poynton) I Williams 9-11-2 B Powell –
8 05P/P GOLDEN DROPS 26 (S) (Mrs D Harris) A Hobbs 9-11-2 R Greene –
9 600 GREENFIELD GEORGE 57 (Mrs K Vann) P Hobbs 6-11-2 L Harvey –
10 1-3 HIM OF PRAISE 22 (BF,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood 7-11-2 J Osborne –
11 0/5-P MYSTIC MANNA 17 (Miss C Allsopp) A Turnell 11-11-2 G Crone 62
12 22 PARAHANDY 14 (Highflyers) G Balding 7-11-2 Mr A Balding (7) 72
13 0/31P/ SOUND CARRIER 1053 (F) (Mrs A Baker) C Popham 9-11-2 G Tormey –
14 2P2-F53 THE BOOLEY HOUSE 22 (Booley Bunch) V Soane 7-11-2 2nd pref 76
15 63P00/P WAPIRO 23 (S) (Mrs C Fuse) Mrs S Williams 7-11-2 R Farrant –
16 5-0 WANDERING LIGHT 57 (Duchess Of Westminster) T Forster 8-11-2 C Llewellyn –

BETTING: 6-4 Cyborgo, 5-2 Buckhouse Boy, 7-1 Parahandy, 14-1 Credo Is King, Him Of Praise, 16-1 Foodbroker Star, 20-1 others.

1996: PETE THE PARSON 7-11-2 M A Fitzgerald (11-2) J Old 3 ran

4.25 FLYOVER HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,716: 3m) (12 runners)

1 1FFFF-0 HEBRIDEAN 77 (D,G,S) (P Deal) P Webber 10-12-0 J Osborne –
2 2/11PP1 BANKHEAD 8 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Breaker) J Spearing 8-11-1 Miss C Spearing (7) 97
3 5P/0653- MY ROSSINI 291F (G,S) (Mrs C Eaton) P Bevan 8-10-9 J Magee (3) 92
4 52P/2-30 TEXAN BABY 26 (BF,S) (C Sanderson) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-5 C Llewellyn 88
5 2F45-F0 VERYVEL 15 (G,S) (D Lewis) J Neville 6-10-5 T J Murphy 86
6 253-423 MENESONIC 14 (Mrs W Walter) R Alner 7-10-5 J Culloty [illegible]
7 2122 KORBELL 9 (D,F,G,S) (K Mitchell) P Nicholls 8-10-4 R Johnson 98
8 00/012- THE MEXICANS GONE 288 (S) (M Clarke) D Geraghty 9-10-0 V Slattery 90
9 213284 GLENGARRIF GIRL 64 (V,D,F) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 7-10-0 G Tormey 89
10 4123/P0 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 14 (S) (N Lake) R Frost 8-10-0 J Frost –
11 0-14F10 SCOTBY 14 (S) (Mrs E Gardiner) R Buckler 7-10-0 B Powell 88
12 4340/0-5 SPIRIT LEVEL 81 (J Payne) J Payne 9-10-0 Mr S Durack (7) –

Long handicap: Glengarrif Girl 9-12, Pennymoor Prince 9-8, Scotby 9-7, Spirit Level 7-5

BETTING: 7-2 Korbell, 4-1 Menesonic, 9-2 Bankhead, 6-1 My Rossini, The Mexicans Gone, 7-1 Glengarrif Girl, 16-1 others.

1996: PLEASURE SHARED 8-11-5 R Dunwoody (7-1) P Hobbs 18 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	15	51	29.4	G E Tormey	5	17	29.4
M Pipe	50	191	26.2	D Bridgwater	20	76	26.3
P Hobbs	19	75	25.3	R Dunwoody	29	113	25.7
J Old	7	32	21.9	C Llewellyn	15	87	17.2
N Twiston-Davies	21	102	20.6	P Hide	5	41	12.2
P Nicholls	12	59	20.3	R Johnson	6	50	12.0
J King	4	26	15.4	R Farrant	4	38	10.5
Mrs J Pitman	5	34	14.7	C Maude	5	49	10.2

Master Oats makes return

MASTER OATS, the 1995 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, faces four other Martell Grand National hopefuls when he makes a belated reappearance at Punchestown tomorrow. The Kim Bailey-trained gelding, off the track for a year since finishing second to Imperial Call in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, carries top weight of 12st in the Ericsson GSM Grand National Trial. Master Oats will be reunited with Norman Williamson, who is having his first ride for Kim Bailey since he split with the trainer last year.

WARWICK

THUNDERER
1.50 New Inn
2.20 Jet Rules
2.50 Beaumont
3.20 Squire Silk
3.55 King Pin
4.30 Around The Gale
5.00 Light The Fuse

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.50 MICHAEL PAGE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE

(£4,150: 2m) (8 runners)

1 11121-5 FROGMARCH 101 (D,S) (Mrs H Mills) R Phillips 7-11-10 N Williamson 95
2 122-334 CHICODARI 21 (B,CD,G,S) (J Hunt) D Nicholson 5-11-7 A Maguire 98
3 4F0536 THORNTON GATE 14 (D,F,G,S) (T Bennett) T Easterby 8-11-2 P Carberry [illegible]
4 0-61232 NEW INN 21 (D,F) (I Stewart) S Gollings 6-11-2 Michael Brennan (3) 93
5 00-4PPF KINO'S CROSS 14 (D,S) (N Harvey) A J Wilson 8-10-8 J Culloty 90
6 01F1-PP DECIDE YOURSELF 59 (D,F,S) (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 7-10-1 A Thornton 95
7 65-2160 SAINT CIEL 21 (D,G,S) (Tam Racing) F Jordan 9-10-0 R Supple 96
8 62142-2 GOLDINGO 9 (CD,F,G,S) (G Price) G Price 10-10-0 J R Kavanagh 95

Long handicap: Goldingo 9-12.

BETTING: 5-2 New Inn, 11-4 Chicodari, 9-2 Frogmarch, 5-1 Thornton Gate, Goldingo, 10-1 Kino's Cross, 14-1 Saint Ciel 16-1 Decide Yourself

1996: GOLDINGO 9-10-5 J R Kavanagh (7-1) G Price 12 ran

2.20 MICHAEL PAGE LEGAL NOVICES CHASE

(£7,198: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

1 004-U12 CAPO CASTANUM 108 (F) (D Gyfe-Thompson) Miss H Knight 8-11-6 J Culloty 74
2 2110-01 JET RULES 8 (G,S) (Jet Stationery Co Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-6 N Williamson [illegible]
3 U-31113 MARINERS MIRROR 14 (G,S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-5 Mr M Rimell 98
4 2P2-F53 THE BOOLEY HOUSE 22 (The Booley Bunch) V Soane 7-11-2 P Carberry 82
5 2F6P/ TOP IT ALL 1206 (G) (P Harriss) P Harriss 9-11-2 D Walsh –
6 442-113 CAROLE'S CRUSADER 63 (BF,G) (Mrs C Skipworth) D Gandolfo 6-10-11 A Maguire –

BETTING: Evens Jet Rules, 11-4 Mariners Mirror, 5-1 Carole's Crusader 6-1 Capo Castanum, 14-1 The Booley House, 33-1 Top It All

1996, BEAUREPAIRE 8-11-6 S McNeill (5-1) R Alner 3 ran

2.50 MICHAEL PAGE SALES AND MARKETING HANDICAP HURDLE C4

(£2,434: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 P14111/ DOUALAGO 628 (B,CD,F,G,S) (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 7-11-12 Jamie Evans –
2 03113-P HOODWINKER 25 (D,G) (P Howell) W Jenks 8-11-11 A Thornton 96
3 11-6056 LITTLE GUNNER 29 (S) (A Bailey) R Price 7-11-10 R Bellamy 88
4 221115 LETS BE FRANK 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Stobart) N Chance 6-11-6 N Williamson 90
5 2100-4P HOODED HAWK 10 (D,BF,G) (C Hamer) N Henderson 6-11-5 J R Kavanagh [illegible]
6 32-0333 PENROSE LAD 25 (Mrs C Weatherby) D Nicholson 7-11-2 A Maguire 91
7 15-6PPP CHIEF RAGER 8 (D,S) (J Cheatham) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-1 D Walsh –
8 F/523-3 BEAUMONT 18 (BF) (P Cunningham) J Banks 7-11-0 P Carberry 90
9 14135/ NEEDWOOD POPPY 1155 (G) (T Leadbeater) B Morgan 9-10-10 B Clifford –
10 350/016- NO FIDDLING 365 (S) (M Batchelor) G McCourt 6-10-3 R Studholme (7) 98
11 0210-P0 MILL THYME 73 (F,G) (Mrs B Pollard) P Beaumont 5-10-6 R Supple –
12 4P5525 FIRST CLASS 23 (F) (G Alford) G Alford 7-10-6 A Bates (5) 93
13 PP/3- FINNIGAN FREE 364P (G Fitch) G Harp 7-10-0 Mr M Frith (7) –
14 /P6/0P-4 CELTIC EMERALD 74 (Mrs M Eckley) R Eckley 9-10-0 Michael Brennan (3) –

Long handicap: Finnigan Free 9-7 Celtic Emerald 8-1

BETTING: 4-1 Lets Be Frank, 9-2 Hooded Hawk, 5-1 Penrose Lad, Doualago 8-1 Beaumont, 10-1 No Fiddling, Hoodwinker, 12-1 others

1996: ALLEZ WIJINS 7-12-0 J R Kavanagh (20-1) N Henderson 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOUALAGO beat Punch's Hotel ½l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f firm) May 95. HOODWINKER about ¾l 3rd of 18 to Yes Man in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. March 96. LETS BE FRANK beat The Captain's Wish 1l in 13-runner handicap hurdle here (2m 3f, good to firm) on penultimate start. PENROSE RED 2l 3rd of 18 to Sharpical in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. BEAUMONT 4l 3rd of 15 to Tramelle in novice handicap hurdle here (2m, good to firm). NO FIDDLING beat Little Chink 6l in 16-runner maiden hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: LETS BE FRANK

3.20 MICHAEL PAGE GROUP KINGMAKER NOVICES CHASE C4

(Grade II: £11,540: 2m) (4 runners)

1 01-1111 MULLIGAN 27 (D,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 7-11-12 A Maguire 94
2 F432-F2 BLAIR CASTLE 14 (F) (Highflyers) G Balding 6-11-5 B Clifford 75
3 1611P-0 FLYING INSTRUCTOR 70 (F,S) (Lady Lyell) P Webber 7-11-5 R Bellamy –
4 4165-01 SQUIRE SILK 8 (F,G,S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 8-11-5 P Carberry [illegible]

BETTING: 11-10 Squire Silk, 5-4 Mulligan, 6-1 Blair Castle, 10-1 Flying Instructor

1996: ARCTIC KINSMAN 9-11-5 C Llewellyn (11-10 fav) N Twiston-Davies 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

MULLIGAN beat Beakstown 9l in the 6-runner grade II Challenge Cup Chase at Leopardstown (2m 1f, good). BLAIR CASTLE 12l 2nd of 10 to Eudipe in novice chase at Stratford (2m 1f 110yd, good). FLYING INSTRUCTOR beat Dreams End 3l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm) April 96. SQUIRE SILK beat Eudipe 1½l in 3-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good)
Selection: MULLIGAN (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Webber	4	15	26.7	A Maguire	18	85	21.2
M Pipe	29	120	24.2	N Williamson	12	63	19.0
D Nicholson	24	104	23.1	J Culloty	3	16	18.8
N Henderson	11	50	22.0	Mr M Rimell	3	17	17.6
A Turnell	3	15	20.0	J R Kavanagh	8	46	17.4
Mrs J Pitman	14	71	19.7	D Walsh	3	19	15.8

3.55 QUESTOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICES TRIAL HURDLE C4

(£7,100: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 11-4311 KING PIN 21 (D,G,S) (J Hinchliffe) P Beaumont 5-11-12 R Supple [illegible]
2 11 KING OF CAMELOT 14 (F,G) (J Wright) D Nicholson 7-11-8 R Massey 81
3 F/22/16 ROCKCLIFFE LAD 26 (S) (S Keswick) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-6 D Walsh 85
4 13-2112 POTTER'S GALE 21 (F,G,S) (J Potter) D Nicholson 8-11-7 A Maguire 95
5 6 INFLUENCE PEDLER 64 (Miss S Blomberg) J Old 4-10-6 N Williamson 75

BETTING: Evens King Pin, 3-1 King Of Camelot, 4-1 Potter's Gale, 6-1 Rockcliffe Lad, 14-1 Influence Pedler

1996: SIMPLY DASHING 5-11-12 L Wyer (2-1 fav) T Easterby 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

KING PIN beat Paperising 3l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good). KING OF CAMELOT beat Winter Rose 4l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good). POTTER'S GALE beat Pip's Dream 2½l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: KING PIN

4.30 MICHAEL PAGE FINANCE HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£6,398: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 1/U1211- MAAMUR 340 (C,G,S) (Mrs A Wood) T Forster 9-12-0 A Thornton 98
2 124U3/0 GENERAL PERSHING 14 (D,F,G,S) (J Potter) D Nicholson 11-11-4 A Maguire –
3 16-6P3S SENOR EL BETRUTTI 14 (D,F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 8-10-12 N Williamson [illegible]
4 151-121 AROUND THE GALE 59 (D,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-10-9 P Carberry 97
5 212-223 SOUTHAMPTON 84 (V,F,G,S) (Highflyers) G Balding 7-10-6 B Clifford 91

BETTING: 7-4 Around The Gale, 9-4 Southampton, 3-1 Maamur, 7-1 Senor El Betrutti, 8-1 General Pershing.

1996: OLD BRIDGE 8-9-8 G Crone (5-1) A Turnell 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAAMUR beat Ungaided Missile 7l in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft) March 96. SENOR EL BETRUTTI 21½l 6th to Bells Life in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good) with GENERAL PERSHING (4lb worse off) 7½l 8th. AROUND THE GALE beat Bayline Star 8l in novice chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: MAAMUR

5.00 MICHAEL PAGE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,028: 2m) (22)

1 210 LORD FOLEY 18 (CD,BF,G) (Foley Steelstock) J O'Shea 5-11-10 Michael Brennan (3) –
2 0 BOLD LEAP 24 (Two Generations Partnership) P Webber 5-11-3 Mr A Sansome –
3 CAPTAIN CULPEPPER (J Cresswell) J Cresswell 6-11-3 N T Egan (7) –
4 CELTIC CARROT (R Price) R Price 5-11-3 Guy Lewis (5) –
5 GINGER WATT (H McGahon) R Price 5-11-3 T Dascombe (3) –
6 HABERDASHER (R Allsop) Miss P Whittle 6-11-3 K Hibbert (7) –
7 0 HIJACK 16 (T Evans) Miss H Knight 6-11-3 Mr A Wintle (7) –
8 0 HONEST GEORGE 105 (A Ellis) K Bridgwater 6-11-3 M Griffiths (7) –
9 0 JEMARO 106 (J Beasley) W Jenks 6-11-3 Mr A Mitchell –
10 LIGHT THE FUSE (A Lousada) K Bailey 5-11-3 C Scudder (7) –
11 RIVER DAWN (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-11-3 M Berry (7) –
12 SAMUEL WILDERSPIN (County Graphic Colour Ltd) D Nicholson 5-11-3 R Massey (3) –
13 6 SILENT CRACKER 18 (R Smith) R Dickin 6-11-3 X Aizpuru (7) –
14 SWEET PERRY (Monday Club Partnership) A Carroll 6-11-3 D Walsh –
15 WAR PAINT (Autoline Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-3 Mr G Baines (7) –
16 WEAPONS FREE (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 6-11-3 R McCarthy (7) –
17 0 GOOD TIME DANCER 24 (Good Time Band) P Webber 5-10-12 D Thomas (7) –
18 NEWSKI LASS (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 5-10-12 J Power (7) –
19 0 TABBITTS HILL 82 (Mrs C Wilson) P Webber 5-10-12 Mr P Scott –
20 MISS FOLEY (Foley Steelstock) J Peacock 4-10-2 L Suthern (7) –
21 PAYPRUTSGETMONKEYS (Jellan Graves Ltd) C Smith 4-10-2 Mrs D Smith –
22 PROPER PRIMITIVE (C Drewe) C Drewe 4-10-2 C Rae (7) –

BETTING: 3-1 Samuel Wilderspin, 5-1 Lord Foley, War Paint, 6-1 Light The Fuse, 10-1 River Dawn, 12-1 others.

1996: ROYALTINO 4-10-0 Mr T Doumen (7-2 fav) F Doumen (Fr) 24 ran

THUNDERER
1.25 Arian Spirit
1.55 Marello
2.25 Malta Man
3.00 The Last Fling
3.35 Bold Boss
4.10 SEVEN TOWERS (nap)
4.45 Sea Victor

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.25 NORTHERN RACING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,267: 3m) (20 runners)

101 1-101 MONTEL EXPRESS 17 (F,G) (Mrs J Conroy) K Bailey 5-12-0 W Walsh (5) 92
102 63-2341 SCARBA 22 (CD,G,S) (Yorkshire R C) J Jefferson 9-11-9 E Callaghan 98
103 4/3124-0 GIVE BEST 77 (G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 6-11-9 R McGrath 90
104 P-F4P04 FLAT TOP 59 (D,S) (D Spence) M W Easterby 6-11-4 P Midgley 97
105 10/0P-54 DIG DEEPER 75 (D,G,S) (I Dalgleish) R Allan 10-11-4 S Melrose 87
106 0/2211-6 NEW CHARGES 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Beaumont) P Beaumont 10-11-4 B Grattan 98
107 213/523 MANETTIA 11 (BF,F,G) (G Stevenson) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-0 G Cahill 94
108 0010-00 BARK'N'BITE 70 (G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-10 G Lee 95
109 55150-2 TURKISH TOWER 9 (G) (G Nixon) R Nixon 6-10-9 F Leahy 95
110 P1-0502 KINGS LANE 12 (G) (J Dun) J Dun 8-10-9 C McCormack (5) [illegible]
111 0/P0-315 HUDSON BAY TRADER 12 (C,D,G,S) (P Curtis) P Beaumont 10-10-7 B Supple 95
112 6/052-PP ANSURO AGAIN 9 (Frickley Holdings Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-5 M Herrington (5) 93
113 62-P050 DOCKMASTER 12 (S) (J Gordon) Miss M Milligan 6-10-4 N Horrocks (5) –
114 3F/25 ARIAN SPIRIT 18 (M West) J Eyre 6-10-3 C Elliott (5) 92
115 UU/00P3 JIGGINSTOWN 12 (G) (Miss G Joughin) J J O'Neill 10-10-0 L Cooper (7) 97
116 5026P WHAT JIM WANTS 26 (Clayton Bigley Partnership Ltd) J J O'Neill 4-10-0 D Jewett (7) 93
117 01R06-6 DENTICULATA 58 (F,G) (P Spottiswood) P Spottiswood 9-10-0 S Haworth (5) 98
118 04/0-006 SKI PATH 7 (D Pickles) N Bycroft 8-10-0 A Scholes (5) –
119 /0PS5- MURPHAIDEEZ 276 (S) (P Cresswell) R Fahey 10-10-0 M Newton 80
120 00-60FF MR SLOAN 9 (P Marron) J Goldie 7-10-0 N Hannity (7) –

Long handicap: What Jim Wants 9-10, Denticulata 9-8, Ski Path 9-2, Murphaideez 9-2, Mr Sloan 8-4.

BETTING: 4-1 Montel Express, 5-1 Scarba, 6-1 Manettia, 7-1 Turkish Tower, 8-1 Jigginstown, 10-1 New Charges, 12-1 others.

1996: CARLEY LAD 8-11-2 B Harding (7-2 fav) G Richards 25 ran

1.55 NEWSHAM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,484: 2m) (19 runners)

201 6-F4021 DURANO 14 (D,G) (C Stevens) T Easterby 6-11-10 R Garritty 82
202 10 OUANGO 14 (BF,G) (L Milligan) J Fitzgerald 5-11-10 D Gallagher 86
203 11-11 MARELLO 87 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5 P Niven [illegible]
204 00-46 BARTON SCAMP 25 (Mrs H Clarke) S Brookshaw 5-11-4 T Eley –
205 0 CHASING DREAMS 22 (D Eccleston) C Grant 6-11-4 J Callaghan –
206 CRAIGIE BOY 8F (B Rayner) N Bycroft 7-11-4 O Pears –
207 FAR AHEAD 17F (Swank Potatoes) J Eyre 5-11-4 B Storey –
208 432- GOSPEL SONG 371 (C Whillans) A Whillans 5-11-4 A S Smith 92
209 03/0324- GREENFINCH 511 (V) (Jack The Lads) Mrs A Naughton 6-11-4 J Supple –
210 NIGEL'S LAD 119F (N Dunnington) P Haslam 5-11-4 M Foster –
211 00 ON THE OFF CHANCE 14 (J Hickling) L Lungo 5-11-4 I Jardine (7) –
212 U60-40 ROBERT THE BRAVE 59 (Mrs M Barker) J Jefferson 5-11-4 E Callaghan (3) –
213 0-0 SHIRLEY'S TIME 25 (P Clifton) Mrs J Brown 6-11-4 G Cahill –
214 6-21200 SIOUX WARRIOR 12 (B,F) (D Douglas) N Tinkler 5-11-4 E Husband (3) –
215- 5246F-P TOSHIBA TALK 63 (Toshiba (UK) Ltd) B Ellison 5-11-4 T Reed –
216 05 JESSOLLE 11 (C Fleet) G Richards 5-10-13 A Dobbin –
217 AFRICAN SUN 232F (N Fletcher) M Chapman 4-10-8 K Gaule –
218 0U DIAMOND BEACH 15 (Valueplace Ltd) G Moore 4-10-8 N Bentley –
219 JAMAICAN FLIGHT 179F (P Lanyman) Mrs S Lamyman 4-10-8 J A McCarthy –

BETTING: 5-4 Marello, 7-2 Durano, 5-1 Ouango, 10-1 Gospel Song, 14-1 Far Ahead, 16-1 Nigel's Lad, 20-1 Toshiba Talk, 25-1 others.

1996: CIRCUS LINE 5-11-4 R Garritty (5-2 fav) M Easterby 21 ran

2.25 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,474: 2m 4f) (19 runners)

301 311 BOBBY GRANT 23 (D,G,S) (J Thompson) C Grant 6-11-10 P Niven 94
302 2120-10 SUTHERLAND MOSS 32 (G,S) (C Whiteley) T Tate 6-11-10 R Garritty 86
303 301-215 WAR WHOOP 147 (F) (A Caines) Miss L Russell 5-11-10 L O'Hara 72
304 0-P ASHGROVE DANCER 7 (Rycon Ltd) L Lungo 7-11-4 I Jardine (7) –
305 223-30 BOLD ACTION 25 (Mrs S Blakeley) J Norton 6-11-4 G Lee (3) –
306 454-0 CHARLEY LAMBERT 17 (R Mitchell) J Mackie 6-11-4 E Husband (3) –
307 60-4066 DON'T TELL TOM 7 (J Wade) J Wade 7-11-4 G Cahill 87
308 0 KING FLY 28 (P Homer-Harker) Mrs Sarah Horner-Harker 7-11-4 M Foster –
309 304/PP LYFORD CAY 11 (R Bewley) J Bewley 7-11-4 D Bentley –
310 0/-245 MALTA MAN 9 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4 A S Smith 97
311 05 NO FINER MAN 12 (Gott Foods Ltd) G Richards 6-11-4 A Dobbin 88
312 F0-0 PAPARAZZO 11 (Mrs R Peacock) G Moore 6-11-4 J Callaghan 76
313 3/500-4F PAPPA CHARLIE 8 (B Green) C Parker 6-11-4 B Storey 85
314 63-504 PENTLANDS FLYER 11 (Mrs M Bird) J Howard Johnson 6-11-4 R Guest 94
315 024 SHARED RISK 8 (G Brookshaw) J Norton 5-11-4 E Callaghan (3) [illegible]
316 6-34 WELL ARMED 198 (Clayton Bigley Partnership Ltd) J J O'Neill 6-11-4 R McGrath (5) –
317 000-P WHITEGATES WILLIE 67 (F Bowden) J Howard Johnson 5-11-4 D Parker –
318 00-P0 BONNY RIGG 14 (Roman Wall Racing) L Lungo 5-10-13 T Reed –
319 243P05- RACHAEL'S DAWN 287 (F) (Mrs C Ward) J Eyre 7-10-13 M Moloney 81

BETTING: 7-4 Bobby Grant, 6-1 Sutherland Moss, 7-1 Shared Risk, 8-1 Malta Man, 10-1 No Finer Man, 12-1 Well Armed, 14-1 War Whoop, 16-1 others.

1996: GO-INFORMAL 5-11-10 M Dwyer (11-8 fav) J Jefferson 21 ran

3.00 BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE BREAKFAST SHOW HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£8,557: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

401 116-505 BETTER TIMES AHEAD 7 (D,G,S) (E Briggs) G Richards 11-11-12 A Dobbin 92
402 2511-25 VALIANT WARRIOR 14 (CD,F,G,S) (F Sellars) M Hammond 9-11-12 R Garritty 97
403 U16-11P EASBY JOKER 21 (CD,F,G,S) (G Orchard) S Kettlewell 9-11-8 P Niven 91
404 11U13F THE LAST FLING 14 (D,F,G,S) (M Jackson) Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 R Guest 96
405 1-42241 FIVELEIGH BUILDS 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Miss L Russell) Miss L Russell 10-11-3 M Foster [illegible]
406 PFP-65P ALL THE ACES 58 (D,G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 10-10-13 S McNeill –
407 12FP/34 IN TRUTH 14 (G,S) (Mrs E Hoston) S Gollings 9-10-7 K Gaule 95
408 034F35 CROSS CANNON 60 (F,G) (J Wade) J Wade 11-10-0 B Storey 85

BETTING: 11-4 The Last Fling, 7-2 Fiveleigh Builds, 4-1 Easby Joker, 5-1 Valiant Warrior, 8-1 Better Times Ahead, In Truth, 14-1 others.

1996: VALIANT WARRIOR 8-11-6 R Garritty 11-1 (M Hammond) 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

BETTER TIMES AHEAD about 13¼l 5th of 5 to The Grey Monk in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good) Nov 96. EASBY JOKER beat Deep Decision 1½l in 10-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. THE LAST FLING beat Cumbrian Challenge 1½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with ALL THE ACES (6lb better off) 16½l 5th. FIVELEIGH BUILDS beat Whispering Steel 1½l in 7-runner handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good). IN TRUTH 14l 4th of 6 to Konvekta King in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good) with VALIANT WARRIOR (5lb worse off) 1¼l 5th.
Selection: FIVELEIGH BUILDS

3.35 GORDON ARMSTRONG WINES NOVICES CHASE C4

(£5,045: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

501 252211 BOLD BOSS 12 (CD,G,S) (J Robson) G Moore 8-11-13 B Storey 80
502 /0/014 CROSSHOT 18 (CD,F,G,S) (R McDonald) R McDonald 10-11-8 K Jones 79
503 2060-22 CHIEF MINISTER 14 (BF,F,S) (S Shiel) M Hammond 8-11-3 R Garritty [illegible]
504 4P-4540 MR BUREAUCRAT 21 (F) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-11-3 A Dobbin –
505 04P/502 NOORAN 19 (C Williams) A Whillans 6-11-3 A S Smith 88

BETTING: 11-8 Chief Minister, 2-1 Bold Boss, 5-1 Mr Bureaucrat, 6-1 Nooran, 10-1 Crosshot.

1996: THE GREY MONK 6-11-13 A Dobbin (1-5 fav) G Richards 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOLD BOSS beat NOORAN (10lb better off) 2½l in 12-runner novice chase at over course and distance (good) with CROSSHOT (10lb better off) 18l. CROSSHOT beat Cover Point 7l in 7-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. CHIEF MINISTER 1½l 2nd of 6 to Cattly Hang in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). MR BUREAUCRAT 12½l 4th of 7 to Tejano Gold in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, soft) on penultimate start. NOORAN about 18½l 6th of 8 to Fen Terrier in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to firm) Nov 96.
Selection: BOLD BOSS

4.10 TOTE EIDER HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£22,053: 4m 1f) (12 runners)

601 11F-5P5 KILLESHIN 14 (CD,G,S) (H Manners) H Manners 11-11-11 S Curran –
602 11F-511 SEVEN TOWERS 29 (C,G,S) (Mrs E Murray) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-8 P Niven 98
603 1113-11 PARSONS BOY 77 (C,G,S) (B Ridge) G Richards 8-11-8 A Dobbin 91
604 3-P2604 CEILIDH BOY 21 (V,C,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 11-10-12 A S Smith 97
605 1/R32-10 PINK GIN 29 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Francis) M Hammond 10-10-8 R Garritty 92
606 4PPF-4P FRONT LINE 59 (B,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 10-10-7 R Guest 85
607 F1P03-3 MATT REID 14 (F,G,S) (W Morgan) J Leigh 13-10-5 K Gaule 90
608 P00-43F SEE ENOUGH 14 (S) (J Meaden) R Buckler 9-10-5 S McNeill 88
609 04-2U11 IVY HOUSE 71 (G,S) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 9-10-1 R McGrath (5) 97
610 44-3F42 KILCOLGAN 7 (B,F,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-10-0 N Bentley [illegible]
611 1 DRUID'S BROOK 16 (F,G) (Racing Club KCB) K Bailey 8-10-0 J A McCarthy 85
612 32-451F PENNINE PRIDE 32 (D,G,S) (Mrs W Beaumont) M Hammond 10-10-0 D Bentley 92

Long handicap: Kilcolgan 9-13, Druid's Brook 9-8, Pennine Pride 9-5.

BETTING: 3-1 Seven Towers, 7-2 Druid's Brook, 4-1 Parsons Boy, 8-1 Ivy House, 10-1 Killeshin, 12-1 See Enough, Kilcolgan, 16-1 others.

1996: KILLESHIN 10-9-11 S Curran (9-1) H Manners 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

SEVEN TOWERS beat Moony-Skip 4l in 13-runner handicap chase at Kelso (4m, good) with CEILIDH BOY (10lb better off) 47l 8th and PINK GIN (14lb better off) 53l 11th. PARSONS BOY beat Ubu Val neck in 10-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good) on penultimate start, with PENNINE PRIDE (2lb better off) 17l 4th and SEVEN TOWERS (1lb better off) 2½l 5th. IVY HOUSE beat Woodlands Boy 5l in 12-runner handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 4f 110yd, good) with PENNINE PRIDE 11l 5th. KILCOLGAN 3l 2nd of 5 to Whispering Steel in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good to soft). DRUID'S BROOK beat Garethson short-head in 15-runner novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good).
Selection: IVY HOUSE

4.45 GOSFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE C4

(£6,938: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1 111442 TOM BRODIE 14 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs M Bird) J Howard Johnson 7-11-12 A S Smith 98
2 1116-3U TURNPOLE 12 (CD,G,S) (W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-12 P Niven 94
3 51-3546 MARCHANT MING 29 (G,S) (R Roper) M Hammond 5-11-12 R Garritty 94
4 5020-05 NIJMEGEN 9 (S) (W Hancock) J Fitzgerald 9-11-12 W Owen 95
5 120F-11 LIVIO 32 (CD,F,G,S) (The Low Flyers) P Monteith 6-11-6 A Dobbin 96
6 3-34304 KAITAK 21 (C,G) (C Murphy) J Carr 6-11-3 F Leahy (3) 97
7 11 SEA VICTOR 28 (F) (J Abell) J L Harris 5-11-2 D Gallagher [illegible]
8 13-F3 CELESTIAL CHOIR 14 (BF,G) (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 7-10-12 B Storey 97
9 431325 DALLY BOY 23 (C,F,G) (T Bennett) T Easterby 5-10-12 J Callaghan 94
10 12331-1 VIARDOT 182 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Middleton) H Alexander 8-10-6 R McGrath (5) 92
11 0145-05 OLD HABITS 18 (D,F) (R Thomson) J Eyre 8-10-4 T Eley 90

BETTING: 7-2 Livio, 4-1 Sea Victor, 5-1 Tom Brodie, 6-1 Celestial Choir, 8-1 Nijmegen, 10-1 Marchant Ming, Kaitak, 12-1 others.

1996: TURNPOLE 5-10-8 P Niven (3-1) Mrs M Reveley 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

TOM BRODIE 5l 2nd of 9 to Edelweis Du Moulin in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good) with CELESTIAL CHOIR neck 3rd. LIVIO beat Lochnagrain 2½l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good) with OLD HABITS (9lb better off) 30½l 8th. KAITAK 11l 4th of 13 to Shining Edge in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) with NIJMEGEN (5lb better off) 32l 8th and CELESTIAL CHOIR (3lb better off) fell at 5th. SEA VICTOR beat Montecrot 1¼l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to firm). DALLY BOY ¾l 2nd of 6 to Arithmetic in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. VIARDOT beat Arrow Line 6l in 9-runner claiming hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm) Aug 96.
Selection: LIVIO

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Kettlewell, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; J Jefferson, 9 from 31, 29.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 33 from 146, 22.6%; G Richards, 14 from 67, 20.9%; M W Easterby, 10 from 49, 20.4%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 37 winners from 137 rides, 27.0%, N Bentley, 7 from 44, 15.9%; T Reed, 13 from 86, 15.1%; R Garritty, 9 from 60, 15.0%, A Dobbin, 14 from 105, 13.3%; R Guest, 6 from 49, 12.2%.

☐ Cab On Target will run in the Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham next month after winning at Fakenham yesterday.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
NEWCASTLE 101 201
CHEPSTOW 102 202
WARWICK 103 203
WINDSOR 104 204
LINGFIELD 105 205
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
IRISH LOTTERY RESULT
0930 162 441

EWCASTLE

Fantus out to press his Festival claims

POINT-TO-POINT
BY CARL EVANS

A DARK horse for the Grand National is in action today, but it is unlikely Fantus's odds of 33-1 for Aintree will change, even if he wins by a distance.

None of the "Big Three" bookmakers will be represented at the **United Services** meeting, and evaluating the form will not be easy, particularly as the logical danger, The Bounder, who was running under Rules last season and was impressive on his pointing debut last month, heads for the **South Pool Harriers** meeting instead.

Fantus's main target is still the Cheltenham Foxhunter Chase. Only if he is 100 per cent after that test will the ten-year-old be switched from Richard Barber's livery yard to Paul Nicholls.

Barber, who is in great form, is delighted the rain has finally come, allowing him to run his brittle star. He is less enamoured with the organisers of today's meeting, who have failed to provide a restricted or intermediate race.

Bert Lavis, the canniest of trainers, is unhappy with some of the planning in his native Wales, where the season finally gets under way at the **Vale Of Clettwr** meeting today. "We then have to wait three weeks for the next meeting in Wales," said an exasperated Lavis, who is forced to double up his runners in several races.

Lavis guided Jamie Jukes to the national riders' title last year, and the pair team up with Cedar Square in the men's open. Jukes also rides Radio Days and Trackman for the stable, but is in opposition in the restricted and could beat Lavis's Rosieplant with True Fortune.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Lanarks & Renfrews at Lanark, 2m S of town (first race, 1 00). Old Raby Hunt Club at Witton Castle, 5m W of Bishop Auckland (12.30). South Pool at Bishops Court, 1m S of Ottery St Mary (12 00). United Services at Larkhill, 5m N of Amesbury (12.30); Vale of Clettwr at Erw Lon, 10m N of Carmarthen (12.00); Waveney Harriers at Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (12.00). West Shrops Drag at Weston Park, 4m NE of Shifnal (12 00).

TOMORROW: Cranwell Bloodhounds at Southwell, on NH course (12.00), Farmers Bloodhounds at Heythrop, 2m NE of Chipping Norton (11.30)

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good, good to firm in places

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, QUEEN OF SPADES (C Llewellyn, 15-8 fav); 2, Lively Encounter (Derek Byrne, 20-1); 3, Splendid Thyne (R Dunwoody, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 4 Tower Street (pu), 13-2 Star Mystery (4th), 12 Father Henry (5th), 14 Dark Orchard, 33 Belvento, Charlie Banker, 50 Maenad (pu), Thirty Below (6th). 11 ran. 6l, 3l, 3l, 5l, 18l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £2.90; £1 90, £4.00, £1.20. DF: £19.50. Trio: £35.60. CSF: £40 63.

2.00 (2m ch) 1. MISTER ODDY (D Fort, 7-2); 2, Lord Dorcet (R Johnson, 3-1); 3, Thumbs Up (R Dunwoody, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 8-11 fav Certainly Strong (fell). 4 ran. 13l, 4l. J King at Swindon. Tote: £4 90. DF: £7.30. CSF: £12.40.

2.35 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. ARFER MOLE (J Osborne, Evens fav); 2. Eulogy (R Dunwoody, 8-1); 3. The Captain's Wish (A Maguire, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Singsby (f), 12 Safegide (5th), 25 Red Branch (ur), 33 Juliett Jones (4th). 7 ran. 2l, hd, 12l, 12l. J Old at Wroughton. Tote: £1 90; £1.40, £2.20. DF: £7.10. CSF: £8 99.

3.10 (2m 6f hdle) 1. OATIS ROSE (A Maguire, 10-1); 2. Denes Cavalier (R Dunwoody, 2-1 fav); 3. Jackson Flint (J Culloty, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Rose-B (4th), 13-2 Cassio's Boy, 7 Kimington (5th), 12 Dark Honey (6th), 20 Braes Of Mar. 8 ran. NR: Bell One. Sh hd, 14l, hd, ¾l, 16l. M Sheppard at Ledbury. Tote: £12.90; £2.50, £1.50, £1.80. DF: £19.40. Trio: £48 50. CSF: £28.64. Tricast: £191.64.

3.45 (3m 110yd ch) 1. DENVER BAY (L Aspell, 100-30); 2. Hill Of Tullow (A Maguire, 2-1 fav); 3. Superior Finish (R Farrant, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Dextra Dove (4th), 10 James Pigg (6th), 16 Sibton Abbey (5th). 6 ran. Hd, 23l, 1½l, 8l, dist. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £4.20; £1.80, £1.60. DF: £4.50. CSF: £9.71.

4.15 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. EXPRESS GIFT (R Dunwoody, 4-11 fav); 2. Dance King (N Smith, 12-1); 3, Pedaltothemetal (G Tormey, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Stoney Valley (5th), 25 Blaze Of Song (4th), 66 Micky Brown (6th). 6 ran. 6l, hd, 1½l, 19l, dist. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £1 40; £1 70, £3.20. DF: £8 00. CSF: £6.14.

4.50 (2m 110yd flat race) 1. DAWN LEADER (G Upton, 7-4 fav); 2. Damien's Choice (Derek Byrne, 14-1). 3. Shebang (Mr H Dunlop, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Shore Party, 6 Little Crumplin (5th), 10 Countryman (4th), 14 The Phantom Farmer, Zephyrelle (6th), 16 Stanmore, 20 Cinnamon Club, Fire Opal, 25 Gower-Slave, Master Pip (pu), 33 Echronel, 50 Thunderbird, 66 Sheet Lightning. 16 ran. 13l, 7l, 3l, 3½l, 1½l. J Old at Wroughton. Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £5.00, £2 40. DF: £49.20. Trio: £148 80. CSF: £29.22.

Placepot: £74.40.

Quadpot: £7.30.

Newcastle

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.05 (2m hdle) 1. Samanid (O Pears, 100-30); 2, Danbys Gorse (5-2 fav); 3, Bend Sable (3-1). 8 ran. 9l, 3½l. Miss L Siddall. Tote: £3.80; £1.10, £1.40, £1 90. DF: £4 40. CSF: £10 79. Tricast: £23.39.

2.40 (2m 4f ch) 1, Bold Account (A Dobbin, 3-1); 2. Coqui Lane (7-4 jt-fav). 3, Kululu (16-1). Real Tonic 7-4 jt-fav (f). 9 ran. Nk, 6l. G Moore. Tote: £4 00; £1 30, £1.60, £1 40. DF: £4 30. Trio: £8 00. CSF: £7 86.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1. Alzulu (A Dobbin, 13-8 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Dana Point (9-4); 3, Good Vibes (7-4). 6 ran. 5l, 14l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £2.50; £2.80, £1 20. DF: £4 60. CSF: £5 15.

3.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Dual Image (R Garritty, 6-4 jt-fav); 2, Rebel King (11-2). 3, Potato Man (9-1). Monnaie Forte 6-4 jt-fav (f). 4 ran. NR: Regal Romper. 2l, 18l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £2 10. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7 69.

4.20 (3m ch) 1. Ask Me Later (M Foster, 11-2); 2, River Unshion (10-11 fav). 3, Majority Major (16-1). 10 ran. NR: Crown Equerry. 12l, 8l. Mrs S Bradburne. Tote: £6 00; £1.80, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £4.50. Trio: £32.20. CSF: £10.79.

4.55 (2m flat race) 1. Mac's Supreme (Michael Brennan, 3-1 fav). 2, Into The Black (8-1); 3, Thunderpoint (9-1). 18 ran. NR: Royal Chip. 2l, 3½l. F Murphy. Tote: £5.20; £1.80, £2 00, £3.50. DF: £10 30. Trio: £183.80 (part won; pool of £235 61 carried forward to 4 10 at Newcastle today). CSF: £26 72.

Jackpot: £10,673.50.

Placepot: £7.90. Quadpot: £7.90.

Fakenham

Going: good

1.45 (2m hdle) 1. Ruth's Gamble (D Leahy, 6-1); 2. Nagobelia (14-1); 3. Captain Marmalade (9-1). Sousse 7-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Just A Beau. 3l, 3l. Mrs L Jewell. Tote: £7 60; £1 30, £3.50, £2 50. DF: £20.50. Trio: £53.50. CSF: £80 71. Tricast: £690 88.

2.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1. Artic Wings (M Brennan, 11-2); 2. Whippers Delight (7-1). 3. Darren The Brave (10-3 fav). 8 ran. NR: Sounds Golden. 7l, 19l. O Brennan. Tote: £7.20; £2 00, £1.60, £1 80. DF: £14 90. Trio: £14.50. CSF: £39 10. Tricast: £133 82.

2.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1. Peace Lord (J F Titley, 7-4). 2. Canton (6-4 fav); 3. Super Rapier (14-1). 8 ran. 5l, 23l. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £3 40; £1 00, £1.70, £3.30. DF: £1 80. CSF: £4 87.

3.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1. Pipperence (W Marston, 4-5 fav); 2. Rolleston Blade (8-1); 3. Charter Lane (40-1). 7 ran. 8l, 15l. N Gaselee. Tote: £1.90; £1 30, £3.50. DF: £5.30. CSF: £7 50.

4.05 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Cab On Target (Mr S Swiers, 4-6 fav); 2. Ansc (40-1). 3, Pro Bono (8-1). 10 ran. 1¾l, 11l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1 60; £1 10, £4 80, £2.00. DF: £25.50. Trio: £82.50. CSF: £44.35.

4.40 (2m hdle) 1, Kintavi (P Niven, 13-8 fav); 2. Ayder (16-1), 3, Lord McMurrough (7-2). 6 ran. 10l, 2l. T Donnelly. Tote: £2.20; £1.80, £3.20. DF: £14.10. CSF: £22 55.

Placepot: £28.60. Quadpot: £3.00.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.10 (2m) 1. Master Foodbroker (D R McCabe, 7-4 fav); 2, La Menorquina (6-1); 3. Mapengo (11-1). 9 ran. Sh hd, 14l. W Musson. Tote: £2.70; £1 10, £2.30, £3 30. DF: £6 40. Trio: £48 10. CSF: £11 89. Tricast: £84.50.

2.45 (1m) 1. Sarasi (L Charnock, 7-1), 2. Rambo Waltzer (4-1); 3t. Northern Fan (14-1); 3t. Whothehellisharry (33-1). Joseph's Wine 2-1 fav. 14 ran. ¾l, 3¾l. M Camacho. Tote: £9 70; £2.50, £1 40 Whothehellisharry, £5 70 Northern Fan, £2.20. DF: £22 80. Trio: Rambo Waltzer, Whothehellisharry, Sarasi, £90 70 (part won; pool of £116.28 carried forward to 4 10 at Newcastle today). Rambo Waltzer, Northern Fan, Sarasi, £12.60 (part won, pool of £116.28 carried forward to today). CSF: £32.23.

3.20 (1m) 1. Kingchip Boy (A Clark, 3-1 fav); 2. Le Sport (5-1), 3. State Of Caution (4-1). 10 ran. ¾l, hd. M Ryan. Tote: £3 50; £1 40, £2.10, £1 70. DF: £16.60. Trio: £38 90. CSF: £17 82. Tricast: £58.15. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.55 (6f) 1. Antonias Melody (S Webster, 10-1); 2, Detrob (7-2). 3, Angie's Contessa (2-1 fav). 9 ran. 5l, 1¾l. S Bowring. Tote: £13 90; £3 10, £1.10, £1.20. DF: £24 90. Trio: £19.30. CSF: £44.21. Tricast: £94.41.

4.25 (1m 4f) 1. Forzair (W Ryan, 7-4 fav); 2. Shuttlecock (9-2), 3. Sharp Gazelle (2-1). 5 ran. 2l, 1¾l. J J O'Neill. Tote: £1.80; £1 10, £1 90. DF: £3.90. CSF: £9.27. No bid.

5 00 (1m 3f) 1. State Of Gold (M Tebbutt, 10-1), 2. Mutahadeth (8-11 fav), 3. Skelton Sovereign (11-4). 7 ran. 5l, 2¾l. J Hetherton. Tote: £11.60; £4 30, £1 10. DF: £4.50. CSF: £17 17.

Placepot: £16.60. Quadpot: £4.20.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: **Southwell** (AW, first race 2.30), Fontwell Park (2.20), Hereford (2 10).

TUESDAY: **Lingfield Park** (AW, 2.20), Carlisle (2 10), Market Rasen (2.00).

WEDNESDAY: **Wolverhampton** (AW, 2.00), Folkestone (2.10), Hexham (2 20).

THURSDAY: **Lingfield** (AW, 2 15), Huntingdon (C4, 1.50), Wincanton (C4, 2.05).

FRIDAY: **Southwell** (AW, 2.25), Haydock Park (2 00), Kempton Park (2 10), **Wolverhampton** (2.20).

SATURDAY: **Lingfield Park** (AW, 2.20), Doncaster (2 00), Haydock Park (BBC, 1 15), Kempton Park (C4, 1.55), Musselburgh (2 10)

Flat meetings in bold

WINDSOR

THUNDERER

1.30 Friendship. 2.00 Sparkling Spring. 2.30 Sail By The Stars. 3.05 Mr Wild. 3.40 Big Ben Dun. 4.15 Deependable. 4.50 Hever Golf Diamond.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD (HURDLES) SIS

1.30 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,679: 2m 6f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	5341	MILLCROFT RIVIERA 15 (G) R Alner 6-11-6	J Tilley
2	3	BOMBADIL 127 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-0	J Railton
3	5/0P	CHAPILLIERE 25 T Thomson-Jones 7-11-0	M Richards
4	1-34	FRIENDSHIP 17 (G) N Henderson 5-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
5	06	FULL OF BOUNCE 28 R Hodges 6-11-0	T Dascombe (3)
6		GRIZZLY BEAR R Smega 7-11-0	S Wynne
7	0	ILEWINIT 24 P Bitchens 8-11-0	S Fox
8	0	MAN OF THE MATCH 25 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0	D Leahy
9	/0P-	RIOT LEADER 352 T George 7-11-0	C Hynes (7)
10	0	SALAMAN 16 D O'Brien 5-11-0	G Bradley
11	-024	SHARIAKANNDI 28 J King 5-11-0	W Marston
12	0/6-	UCKERBY LAD 308P Miss J du Plessis 6-11-0	D Fortt (3)
13	30P4	ZIP YOUR LIP 17 Mrs P Townsley 7-11-0	Derek Byrne

4-5 Friendship, 6-1 Millcroft Riviera, 7-1 Shariakanndi, 8-1 others.

2.00 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,658: 2m 6f 110yd) (13)

1	12	SPARKLING SPRING 22 (C,G) K Bailey 6-11-6	J Railton
2	96/P	ANIF 3 J Joseph 6-11-0	D Skyrme
3	-P00	BLACK STATEMENT 57 J Gifford 7-11-0	L Aspell (3)
4	360	BROOKHAMPTON LANE 24 Mrs A Bowlby 6-11-0	D Leahy
5	6-	HIGH PATRIARCH 399 N Walker 5-11-0	I Lawrence
6	06	JAZZMAN 17 A Jarvis 5-11-0	J F Titley
7	P2	OVER THE WATER 15 R Alner 5-11-0	W Marston
8	/33-	PROFESSOR PAGE 455 T Thomson Jones 7-11-0	Derek Byrne
9	4	PRUSSIAN STEEL 8 M Bradstock 6-11-0	P Holley
10	62	STORMYFAIRWEATHER 18 N Henderson 5-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
11	0-6F	BALE SPRING 15 R Hodges 5-10-9	T Dascombe (3)
12	P422	MARLOUSION 81 C Brooks 5-10-9	G Bradley
13	4/6-	MRS BARTY 489 C Weedon 7-10-9	M Richards

2-1 Sparkling Spring, 4-1 Stormyfairweather, 5-1 Professor Page, 8-1 others.

2.30 MAGNA CARTA NOVICES CHASE
(£3,340: 2m 5f) (18)

1	1253	LIVELY KNIGHT 21 (G) J Gifford 8-11-10	DOUBTFUL
2	4423	CALLEVA STAR 17 R Alner 6-11-3	M A Fitzgerald
3	-P4P	CRUISE CONTROL 22 R Rowe 11-11-3	D O'Sullivan
4	0600	DERRYS PREROGATIVE 16 A Carroll 7-11-3	D Leahy
5	-662	MONICASMAN 69 (F,G,S) A Jarvis 7-11-3	J F Titley
6	00-6	MYSTIC COURT 80 A Turnell 6-11-3	I Lawrence
7	/P-0	MY WARRIOR 81 (F) M Campion 9-11-3	J Railton
8	6PP3	STROKESAVER 12 (B,F) C Brooks 7-11-3	G Bradley
9	65/U	THE WEATHERMAN 89 A Jessop 9-11-3	T Kent
10	-P35	VOLLEYBALL 17 P Hedger 8-11-3	M Richards
11	-426	BROGEEN LADY 26 (BF) D Gandolfo 7-10-12	D Fortt (3)
12	U	CONVAMORE QUEEN 11 N Babbage 8-10-12	W Marston
13	00-0	COUNTRY TOWN 59 A Jones 7-10-12	P Holley
14	-152	JOLIS ABSENT 89 (F) M Ryan 7-10-12	J Ryan
15	44P/	MINDYEROWNBUSINESS 652 R Lee 8-10-12	M Griffiths (7)
16		MULTI LINE 300P Mrs P Townsley 7-10-12	Derek Byrne
17	-111	SAIL BY THE STARS 56 (S) T Forster 8-10-12	S Wynne
18	14	SLEETMORE GALE 60 (F) T McGovern 7-10-12	T Dascombe (3)

2-1 Sail By The Stars, 3-1 Monicasman, 5-1 Brogeen Lady, 8-1 Jolis Absent, 10-1 Strokesaver, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Chepstow: 1.45 Cooksee. 2.45 Dom Samourai, Sheer Ability. 3.15 Southernhay Boy. Lingfield Park: 2.40 Broadgate Flyer. Newcastle: 4.10 Cellich Boy. Windsor: 2.30 Strokesaver.

3.05 HATCH BRIDGE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£7,546: 2m) (12)

1	3511	SERENUS 83 (D,G,S) N Henderson 11-7	M A Fitzgerald
2	1	HAYAAIN 14 (D,G) K Bailey 11-4	J Railton
3	2	ELA AGAPI MOU 15 G L Moore 11-0	P Holley
4	114	FAR DAWN 29 (CD,G) Mrs A Perrett 11-0	Derek Byrne
5		FASIL 127F N Walker 11-0	I Lawrence
6		HISAR 112F C Brooks 11-0	G Bradley
7		INFAMOUS 17F R O'Sullivan 11-0	D O'Sullivan
8	UF24	MR WILD 22 (BF) R Akehurst 11-0	W Marston
9	005	PALAMON 11 J White 11-0	S Ryan
10	0125	RED RAJA 15 (BF,S) P Mitchell 11-0	M Richards
11		SALTY GIRL 119F J Moore 10-9	W McFarland
12	5	SILVRETTA 14 J Gifford 10-9	L Aspell

11-4 Serenus, 7-2 Far Dawn, 4-1 Hayaain, 7-1 Mr Wild, 8-1 Ela Agapi Mou, 12-1 Fasil, 14-1 others.

3.40 FAIRLAWNE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,849: 3m) (6)

1	1F54	PLUNDER BAY 17 (F,S) N Henderson 6-11-10	M A Fitzgerald
2	P446	FAST THOUGHTS 8 (B,D,F,G,S) D Gandolfo 10-11-4	D Fortt (3)
3	UP5U	BIG BEN DUN 11 (D,F,G,S) C Brooks 11-11-2	G Bradley
4	322-	EQUITY PLAYER 326 (D,F,G,S) R Curtis 12-10-13	D Morris
5	2P01	ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 17 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Jones 8-10-9	Derek Byrne
6	3-PP	ROYAL SAXON 12 (C,F,G,S) P Bowen 11-10-5	W Marston

7-4 Zambezi Spirit, 3-1 Plunder Bay, 4-1 Fast Thoughts, 5-1 Big Ben Dun, 8-1 Equity Player, 16-1 Royal Saxon.

4.15 STAINES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,028: 2m 5f) (11)

1	1F8F	THE CAUMRUE 14 (G,S) G Balding 9-11-13	G Bradley
2	6-21	HAWAIIAN YOUTH 17 (CD,F,G,S) G McCourt 9-11-12	D Fortt (3)
3	-415	TOO SHARP 22 (F,S) Miss H Knight 9-11-10	J F Titley
4	4-0F	CHURCHTOWN PORT 8 (C,S) P Butler 7-11-7	M A Fitzgerald
5	-266	JOVIAL MAN 15 (F,S) R O'Sullivan 8-11-2	P Holley
6	0441	SOPHIE MAY 24 (B,F,S) L Montague Hall 6-10-11	W Marston
7	-P4P	DEEPENDABLE 22 (V,CD,G) Mrs L Richards 10-10-10	M Richards
8	05-1	KEY PLAYER 22 (S) R Rowe 8-10-0	D O'Sullivan
9	-405	RUBINS BOY 16 (F) N Walker 11-10-0	D Finnegan (7)
10	-PP5	BE SURPRISED 17 (G) G L Moore 11-10-0	M Batchelor (7)
11	PPU0	KING'S COURTIER 17 (V) S Mellor 8-10-0	N Mann

9-4 Hawaiian Youth, 7-2 Sophie May, 5-1 Too Sharp, 7-1 The Caumrue, 8-1 Key Player, 10-1 Jovial Man, 12-1 Churchtown Port, 20-1 others.

4.50 RUNNYMEDE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,819: 2m) (9)

1	2103	ALBEMINE 11 (CD,F,G) Mrs J Cecil 8-12-0	T Kent
2	0005	ROS CASTLE 9 (B,D,G,S) R Hodges 6-11-10	J Railton
3	-030	GREEN LANE 9 (D,F,G) J Joseph 9-10-9	D Skyrme
4	-340	LINDEN'S LOTTO 14 (D,F,G,S) J White 8-10-7	S Parker (7)
5	1531	MORE DASH THANCASH 9 (D,F,G) Mrs M Jones 7-10-5	Derek Byrne
6	31U2	SHEPHERDS REST 15 (D,S) S Mellor 5-10-5	N Mann
7	213/	COLOSSUS OF ROADS 839 (D,F,G) T Thomson Jones 8-10-4	M A Fitzgerald
8	1435	HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 64 (D,F) J Best 4-10-0	Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
9	-365	KELLY MAC 17 (CD,S) D O'Brien 7-10-0	W Marston

7-4 More Dash Thancash, 7-2 Albemine, 5-1 Shepherds Rest, 6-1 Colossus Of Roads, 8-1 Kelly Mac, 12-1 Linden's Lotto, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G McCourt, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; C Brooks, 6 from 21, 28.6%; D Gandolfo, 5 from 19, 26.3%; K Bailey, 15 from 59, 25.4%; R Akehurst, 6 from 25, 24.0%; P Hedger, 6 from 26, 23 1%.

JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald, 8 winners from 47 rides, 17.0%; M Richards, 10 from 78, 12.8%; G Bradley, 4 from 32, 12.5%; P Holley, 4 from 32, 12.5%; J Titley, 3 from 25, 12.0%; J Railton, 7 from 61, 11.5%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 River Seine. 2.40 Spaniard's Mount. 3.10 Bagshot. 3.45 Superbelle. 4.20 Nopalea. 4.55 Glow Forum.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

2.10 RED ROSE APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,843: 7f) (10 runners)

1	0353	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 7 (CD,G) S Dow 4-9-13	A Daly 3
2	400-	TUIGAMALA 136 (CD,F,G) R Ingram 6-9-8	D Sweeney 2
3	4303	LIFT BOY 9 (C,F,G) G L Moore 8-9-6	M Batchelor (5) 7
4	1021	HAWAII STORM 14 (CD,G,S) D Brench Davis 9-9-3	Kerry Baker (5) 10
5	/60-	VERA'S FIRST 357 (CD,G) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-2	Angela Gallimore (5) 1
6	00-0	MASRUF 9 (F) K Burke 5-8-7	Sophie Mitchell 4
7	-030	RIVER SEINE 16 (CD,G) S Knight 5-8-4	G Faulkner 8
8	6463	PRIVATE FIXTURE 12 (CD,G) D Marks 6-8-4	R Mullen (3) 5
9	-043	ASTRAL INVADER 11 (C,F,S) M Saunders 5-8-1	P P Murphy 9
10	0104	INTO DEBT 7 (E,CD,G) J Poulton 4-7-10	A McCarthy (5) 6

5-2 Hawaii Storm, 4-1 Lancashire Legend, 5-1 Lift Boy, 8-1 Private Fixture, Astral Invader, 10-1 River Seine, Vera's First, 12-1 others.

2.40 ROMEO CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,440: 7f) (5)

1	5-21	SPANIARD'S MOUNT 9 (V,CD,G,S) M Tompkins 9-1	D Holland 5
2	4-30	HEVER GOLF DANCER 22 T Naughton 8-11	T Sprake 3
3	-220	BROADGATE FLYER 17 (B) Mrs L Stubbs 8-6	S Whitworth 4
4	-522	HEVER GOLF CHARGER 3 (BF) T Naughton 8-6	S Sanders 1
5	-246	HEAVENLY MISS 14 (C,F,G) J Bridger 8-2	R Mullen (5) 2

2-1 Spaniard's Mount, 5-2 Hever Golf Dancer, 7-2 Hever Golf Charger, 5-1 Broadgate Flyer, 6-1 Heavenly Miss

3.10 JULIET SELLING STAKES (£2,175: 1m) (6)

1	2-61	BAGSHOT 21 (C,F,G,S) G L Moore 6-9-5	S Whitworth 4
2	4-16	HATTA SUNSHINE 14 (CD,G) G L Moore 7-9-5	A Whelan (3) 6
3	/00-	CALLALOO 70 R Harris 4-8-13	D Biggs 3
4	0-05	DREAM CARRIER 11 (D,F,G) R Peacock 9-8-13	S Sanders 1
5	-200	STATISTICIAN 7 (E,F) John Berry 5-8-13	J Quinn 2
6	00-6	YOUNG FREDERICK 21 K Burke 4-8-13	A Culhane 5

6-4 Bagshot, 3-1 Hatta Sunshine, 5-1 Statistician, 6-1 Young Frederick, 7-1 Callaloo, 14-1 Dream Carrier.

3.45 JACK & GILL COLE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,006: 1m 2f) (6)

1	-122	MILLROY 9 (V,C,BF,G) P Kelleway 9-7	M Wigham 4
2	23-1	SUPERBELLE 42 (CD,G) M Jarvis 8-11	Emma O'Gorman 5
3	1111	GLOBETROTTER 22 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-10	D McKeown 3
4	-432	TIME CAN TELL 18 (G) C Murray 8-0	J Quinn 1
5	4-31	LAWN LOTHARIO 18 (CD,G) M Johnston 7-13	T Williams 6
6	01-2	PINCHINCHA 45 (G) D Morris 7-11	G Bardwell 2

5-2 Millroy, 3-1 Globetrotter, 7-2 Superbelle, 5-1 Lawn Lothario, 7-1 Pinchincha, 8-1 Time Can Tell

4.20 DEMPSTERS DIARY MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,306: 5f) (6)

1	0565	LOGIE PERT LAD 9 J Bridger 5-9-10	F Norton 1
2	540-	RIFIFI 255 R Ingram 4-9-10	S Whitworth 4
3	24	BLUES MAGIC 4 (BF) M Bell 3-8-10	G Faulkner (5) 2
4	300-	EMMA'S RISK 119 R Harris 3-8-5	D Biggs 6
5	5-43	MA VIELLE POUQUE 10 W G M Turner 3-8-5	T Sprake 5
6	33-4	NOPALEA 39 (BF) T Naughton 3-8-5	D Holland 3

5-4 Blues Magic, 5-2 Nopalea, 5-1 Rififi, 8-1 Ma Vielle Pouque, 10-1 Emma's Risk, 25-1 Logie Pert Lad

4.55 SWEETHEART FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,306: 1m 4f) (4)

1	-321	GLOW FORUM 16 (CD,F,G,S) L Montague Hall 6-10-0	Martin Dwyer (3) 4
2	01-1	PERSUASION 21 (CD,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-12	D Harrison 3
3	0244	HARLEQUIN WALK 11 (CD,G) R O'Sullivan 6-7-12	J Quinn 2
4	5245	NAWAJI 8 W Muir 4-7-10	J Bramhill (5) 1

Evens Persuasion, 2-1 Glow Forum, 6-1 Harlequin Walk, 7-1 Nawaji

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Bell, 8 winners from 34 runners, 23.5%; Lord Huntingdon, 41 from 182, 22.5%; L Montague Hall, 11 from 55, 20.0%; M Johnston, 43 from 244, 17.6%; P Kelleway, 10 from 64, 15.6%; G L Moore, 49 from 332, 14.8%.

JOCKEYS: D Holland, 28 winners from 117 rides, 23.9%; Emma O'Gorman, 22 from 112, 19.6%; S Whitworth, 32 from 164, 19.5%; D McKeown, 16 from 104, 15.4%; D Harrison, 31 from 217, 14.3%.

☐ Trying Again, who has not run since finishing second in the Rehearsal Chase, will miss the Racing Post Chase next Saturday, and probably the rest of the season, after picking up an infection.

IN BRIEF

Walsh gives notice of extended absence

COURTNEY WALSH will not play first-class cricket for Gloucestershire this summer because of his commitments with West Indies, but he will return for six weeks to help to coach the county's bowlers. However, the West Indies captain hopes to play in one-day games for Gloucestershire at the Cheltenham Festival, against Lord's Taverners and Pakistan A, and will be back for the start of the next season.

Jack Russell, who is on tour with England in New Zealand, has told the county that he does not wish to captain Gloucestershire in the absence of Walsh, but officials will try to persuade him to change his mind.

Sailing: *Group 4*, under Mike Golding, was still hanging on to her slim lead yesterday in the third stage of the BT Global Challenge from Wellington to Sydney, which is expected to finish this weekend. Golding had a five-mile advantage over Chris Tibbs on *Concert*, which has moved up to second place, as the fleet continues to enjoy fast spinnaker-running conditions with many of the 14 yachts averaging more than ten knots.

Bowls: Jenny Davies and Betty Morgan, who qualified for three Welsh indoor championship finals this winter, had to settle for only one title — the fours. Having lost in the pairs final at Bridgend on Thursday, they and their Radnorshire club-mate, Shirley Gough, lost in the triples final yesterday to Marianne Acreman, Merle Cox and Joyce Thornton, 13-11.

Tennis: Greg Rusedski secured a straight-sets victory over Daniel Nestor, of Canada, in the second round of the Sybase Open in San Jose, California. The British No 2, who beat Alejandro Hernandez, of Mexico, 6-3 6-4 in his opening match, was even more impressive in disposing of his unseeded former compatriot 6-3, 6-1.

THE TIMES

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

Do you want to make a movie?

Win an Arriflex camera worth £56,000

Today *The Times* gives you the chance of a lifetime — to make a movie. In an exciting cross-media competition, in association with Faber and Faber, Dillons The Bookstore, Sky Movies and *Esquire* magazine, and in association with Arri (GB) Ltd, you can win an Arriflex camera worth £56,000. Arriflex cameras are the most widely used to make motion pictures and our prize is similar to the camera cult director Robert Rodriguez used to make *El Mariachi*.

At 23 Rodriguez proved anyone with artistic skill and determination can make a successful film on a low budget. Now you have an opportunity to be a film director just like him.

All you have to do is answer the five questions on our competition entry form and tell us, in 20 words or less, what your movie would be about. You will find the answers in Rodriguez's *Rebel Without a Crew* published by Faber and Faber and on sale exclusively at all Dillons The Bookstores, at the special price of £6. The book tells how Rodriguez made *El Mariachi* on a shoestring — and with a handheld camera.

First prize is an Arriflex 16 SR3, a state-of-the-art motion picture camera worth £56,000. The winner will meet Rodriguez and attend a film-making masterclass given by the director himself.

There are ten runners-up prizes of Sony HandyCams plus Fuji Film and signed copies of *Rebel Without a Crew*.

REBEL WITHOUT A CREW BOOK OFFER

Complete this order form and post it to: *The Times/ Rebel without a Crew* Book Offer, PO Box 6927, London E3 3NZ or telephone the Rebel Hotline on 0171 510 0104. The offer closes April 2, 1997. Please allow 14 days for delivery

Send me ...... (qty) *Rebel without a Crew* Book(s) @ £6.00 each including p&p

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Postcode .... Daytime tel ....

I enclose a cheque for £ ...... payable to FBS Ltd or charge my credit/credit card

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Exp. Date .... Signature ....

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HOW TO ENTER

You will find the answers to the questions in *Rebel Without a Crew*. If you have not read the book, you can buy it by credit card on: 0171-510 0104 or use the order form left. You can also buy the special edition which has a competition entry form printed inside at any branch of Dillons The Bookstore. Post the entry form (one also appears right) to: *The Times* Do You Want to Make a Movie Competition, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. The closing date for entries is Wednesday April 2, 1997. All correct entries will be judged by a panel consisting of Robert Rodriguez, and representatives from *The Times*, Faber and Faber, *Esquire* magazine and Arri (GB) Ltd.

THE MOVIE COMPETITION

Post this entry form to: *The Times* **Do You Want to Make a Movie Competition, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR.** Closing date: April 2, 1997. The winners will be the persons who correctly answer the five questions and who, in the opinion of the judges, submit the most apt and original description telling us what their film would be about. Normal TNL competition rules apply, available on request.

1. In which city are most of Woody Allen's films shot?

2. Robert Rodriguez was 23 when he made his first film. How old was Steven Spielberg when he made Jaws?

3. Which book did Robert Rodriguez take with him when he was a Lab Rat?

4. What is the name of the comic strip Robert Rodriguez wrote for the school newspaper?

5. At which film festival did Robert Rodriguez meet Quentin Tarantino?

Tell us in 20 words or less what your movie would be about

Title ...... Initials ...... Surname ....

Address ....

Postcode .... Daytime tel ....

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*/Dillons, please tick ☐

COMPETITION RULES 1. Entries, limited to persons aged 12 years and above, must be on an official entry form available from either *The Times* or *Esquire* Magazine. Entry forms [illegible] Dillons The Bookstore. No purchase necessary. 2. Entries must be received by first post Wednesday April 2, 1997. No photocopies will be accepted. 3. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may submit provided each one is on an official entry form. 4. The competition [illegible] will be selected from all correct entries and will be the person who, in the opinion of the judges, submits the most apt and original description of the film they would like to make. 6. Ten runners-up will each receive a Sony HandyCam and Fuji Film and signed copies of *Rebel Without a Crew* [illegible] entered into. 8. Winners will be notified by post after May 9, 1997. 9. The winners must agree to publicity and normal *Times* Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply, available on request. 10. The Arriflex 16SR 3 camera the winner will get consists of: zoom lens, matte box, magazines, [illegible] the prize).

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION

French confident they can march on against Wales

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN PARIS

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

TWO weeks ago, rejuvenated by victory in Scotland, no Welshman arriving at Cardiff Arms Park would have expected anything other than a victory from his team. However, that Welshman would have departed disconsolately after Ireland had defiantly proved him wrong.

This afternoon, the reverse is the case as Wales play France in Paris. There is widespread conviction of a French victory; there are no bets on Wales. The only hope is that the good fortune that deserted Wales last time will return so as — fingers crossed — to confound all predictions.

This is the last chance to lift the bogey. After defending their Parc des Princes fortress for 22 years against Wales, France will move to the new Stade Français next season. Whether in Cardiff or Paris, France have given Wales a haunted look over the last 15 years. For 12 consecutive years from 1983, France took the spoils. Welsh luck has turned somewhat since 1994. They have won two of the last three; both, however, in Cardiff.

Today may present as good a chance as any to follow in Scotland's footsteps of two years ago, when they at last achieved a victory that had eluded them for 26 years. France, because of five injuries and the suspension of their prop, Tournaire, have been forced to make six changes from the team that defeated Ireland on the opening weekend of the five nations' championship.

Other national teams, finding themselves in a position of having to replace six of their first-choice players, would present a moment of introspection and doubt. The French are only partly in this condition. If, in the past, they might have thrown their arms despairingly in the air, they do so only half-heartedly now. With the overwhelming success of their clubs in both European competitions, the Heineken Cup and the European Conference, they feel they have the kind of strength in depth to which the other countries can only aspire.

France have the admirable facility also of moving their players around in a variety of positions and to appear comfortable with the changes. Today, there are four changes in the back division. Lamaison and Venditti, who are centres for Brive, are at stand-off half and wing, respectively, for their country. The latter scored three tries in his first five nations' match, in Dublin. Lamaison, who played in this position on tour in South Africa last year, is partnered by Carbonneau, also from Brive, representing a complete change at half back from the Irish match, when Penaud and Galthié held the positions.

Such positional manoeuvres could prove vulnerable points for others to exploit. It would surely be the case were other countries to be so selectorially cavalier, but who can tell how the changes will expose the French?

Wales are in a championship no man's land; one away win, one loss at home. The swing from euphoria to frustration was summed up by Terry Cobner, the Wales director of coaching. "We were not as good as people made us out to be after beating Scotland," he said, "nor were we as bad as we were said to be after losing to Ireland."

What is true is that the problems discernible against Scotland were also present against Ireland. Too often, the players look to take the ball to the ground, where they are then careless in losing their grip on it and giving it away, the lineout remains uncertain and they have yet to show the mastery of winning the ball artfully at the restart. These are areas that should consolidate Wales's progress. Instead, the team is unnecessarily exposed further.

Any hint of negligence and France will punish them. Pierre Villepreux, ignored for years for coaching at international level, is now assistant to Jean-Claude Skrela. A large part of his attacking strategy is based on taking advantage of the mistakes of others, working on the principle that it is then that the opposition defence is most disorganised.

Control, as England proved in their four victories in Paris in the 1990s, is a prerequisite in the fire-cracking atmosphere. Aggression, too, must be met with aggression. These are qualities that will be called upon even more in conditions that are likely to be heavy after rain. Whatever the weather, France are firm favourites.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN PARIS

FRANCE		WALES
J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)	15	N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)
L Leflamand (Bourgoin)	14	I C Evans (Llanelli)
R Dourthe (Dax)	13	A G Bateman (Richmond)
S Glas (Bourgoin)	12	J S Gibbs (Swansea)
D Venditti (Brive)	11	G Thomas (Bridgend)
C Lamaison (Brive)	10	A C Thomas (Swansea)
P Carbonneau (Brive)	9	R Howley (Cardiff)
C Califano (Toulouse)	1	C D Loader (Swansea)
M Dalmaso (Agen)	2	J M Humphreys (Cardiff)*
J-L Jordana (Toulouse)	3	D Young (Cardiff)
A Benazzi (Agen)*	6	S M Williams (Neath)
O Merle (Montferrand)	4	G O Llewellyn (Harlequins)
H Miorin (Toulouse)	5	M Rowley (Pontypridd)
R Castel (Béziers)	7	C L Charvis (Swansea)
F Pelous (Dax)	8	L S Quinnell (Richmond)

Referee: P Marshall (Australia)

BBC1: 5.0 * captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Viars (Brive), 17 D Aucagne (Pau), 18 G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux), 19 O Magne (Dax), 20 P Triep-Capdevielle (Pau), 21 M de Rougemont (Toulon).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Davies (Cardiff), 17 P John (Pontypridd), 18 H T Taylor (Cardiff), 19 P Arnold (Swansea), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea).

MIKE COOPER / ALLSPORT

Venditti, left, displays the fleetness of foot that France will be hoping to exploit against Wales in Paris today

Brive inspire backward glance

Peter Bills on the threequarter talent recalling a glorious era for France

Back in the early 1960s, in the beautiful forest region of France known as Les Landes, a small rugby club unearthed some exceptionally talented threequarters. Stade Montois, the club in Mont-de-Marsan, midway between Bordeaux and the Pyrenees, produced three players for the national team who were, in any era, formidably skilled. Christian Darrouy, a great wing who was to captain France, and the Boniface brothers, André and Guy, who was to die tragically young in a car accident, had a profound impact on French back-line play of that time.

The effect is still talked about to this day in the cafés and bars of the South of France. Except that now, another club and a fresh cluster of supremely talented players who have moved en bloc into the national team are discussed.

The influence of the successful Brive club will become manifest at the Parc des Princes today when three members of its back line represent France against Wales: the influential half backs, Philippe Carbonneau and Christophe Lamaison, and the left wing, David Venditti. A fourth Brive man, Sébastien Viars, is on the replacements' bench.

Given the flair and dynamism with which Brive won the Heineken Cup last month, it is not too fanciful a notion that the little club of the Corrèze may emulate the considerable influence nationally of Mont-de-Marsan those years ago.

Certainly, the flying men of Brive will find a sympathetic apostle to preach their creed at international level in the form of Pierre Villepreux. Venditti, whose scoring prowess has been exceptional in recent months, acknowledges that the national team under Villepreux now seeks to emulate the pace of the Brive game against Leicester. "Yes, why can't the French team play at the same pace as Brive," he said. "I think this French team wants to do it, but it is hard to achieve because you don't have the players together all the time.

"It is the trainer's job to reflect on our style of play and not for us, the players of Brive, to impose our style on the team. We arrive in the French team and respect the objectives of the trainer. But people must not expect everything at once; it will take him some time to work with the team."

Perhaps, but Villepreux has, all his rugby life, espoused the theories that Brive so gloriously demonstrated in that final — fast ball, creative back-line play with innovative angles of running, slick passes delivered at speed and timed shrewdly and the working of the sprinters into open space. It is his life's work.

For Venditti, 23, these are heady times. A first appearance for France last April, when they defeated Romania 64-20, a try-scorer for Brive against Llanelli and Cardiff in the quarter and semi-finals of the Heineken Cup followed by a hat-trick of tries for France in Ireland last month.

He left Bourgoin last summer for Brive to play in the Heineken Cup: Bourgoin were only in the European Conference. He embraced rugby from the age of eight in the region of Ain, living at the foot of the ski slopes near the Swiss border. Skiing was denied to him, however, because his coaches recognised an outstanding rugby talent. Now, some liken him to Eric Bonneval, the former Toulouse player, and his solid frame, 6ft 1in and 13st 3lb, makes him a similarly powerful runner.

For Brive, he plays centre, for France, left wing. An anomaly? He smiled. "I would hook for France if they ask me," he said. He is almost stocky enough to do just that. Wales should beware this new French connection.

TENNIS

Recurrence of injury sidelines Becker

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

BORIS BECKER'S hopes of climbing back into the top five of the world rankings and challenging for another grand-slam title suffered a setback yesterday when he pulled out of the Dubai Open before his quarter-final match against Goran Ivanisevic with a recurrence of a wrist injury.

Last summer, during his third-round match at Wimbledon, he snapped the tendons of his right wrist as he went to play a forehand. Initially, he was out of action for 3½ months and, since his return, has withdrawn from three tournaments after the pain flared up again.

"It is a very strong pain in my wrist," he said. "It started six days ago, but I don't know why the problem came back. Usually, when I arrive at a new site, it takes a couple or three days to get used to the conditions and it hurts a little in my first round, but after that I am pain-free. This time, I have been taking anti-inflammatory tablets for five days and it is still getting worse."

On Thursday, Becker was unsure whether he would be able to play his second-round match against Sandon Stolle after his morning practice session. "By the evening warm-up, it was much better so I thought I would give it a try", he said. "Tonight, it was not any better at all."

Becker was due to play in Antwerp next week, but will now go back to Munich to see the specialists who treated him last summer. What worries him most is the fact that the pain appears to be in a slightly different place this time and he is planning to have a scan as soon as possible to see exactly where the problem lies.

"The doctors told me that it would take a very long time for the injury to heal completely," he said, "and with the way I play, with a lot of spin and a lot of wrist work, I am using it every day."

Two other men who have had their problems with injury over the past few months suffered mixed fortunes. Jim Courier beat Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 7-5, but Richard Krajicek, the No 3 seed, lost 6-2, 6-2, to Jiri Novak, of the Czech Republic.

Shaw shows stature for the big occasion

David Hands, rugby correspondent, believes England's giant forward has put a series of crippling setbacks behind him

Talk of wheels turning full circle will not go down well with Simon Shaw. There have been too many punctures along the way for the Bristol lock forward to gaze into the future with full confidence, yet there is no denying that Africa, where he was born and where his representative playing career took a giant leap forward, may see him back this year — if the selectors of the British Isles party to tour there this summer think fit.

Shaw learnt the hard way the pitfalls of professional sport, even when still an amateur. That his international career is now burgeoning — a fourth England cap beckons against Ireland at Lansdowne Road today — does not mean that he forgets entirely a 1995 that brought him, literally, to his knees.

It was bad enough that medial ligaments damaged during his third A international, against Italy, in February of that year proved enough to remove him from the World Cup squad that travelled in the summer to South Africa; in November, a double dislocation of the left ankle, suffered while playing for Bristol against Transvaal, threatened to erase a promising career completely.

That his shin bone was broken and sundry ligaments and tendons ruptured only added to the gruesome mess that his leg was in; few who witnessed the accident, when his leg caught in the turf, would have predicted that, almost exactly a year later, he would make his international debut against Italy.

Shaw was in no doubt that he would play again: the question was, at what level? "The most demanding part was not whether the ankle would be right, but whether I could put 100 per cent into my game, make the tackles without fearing the ankle would go again," he said. "That was the worst part. I came back earlier than the surgeons predicted and played a couple of games towards the end of the season, but I was still holding back a bit.

"During the summer, I psyched myself up to really go for it and it seems to have worked." That could be described as a modest understatement: Shaw and Martin Johnson could form a second-row partnership as effective as any of those that have preceded them in English colours and provide the engine-room for the Lions, who have so frequently in the past relied on muscular English tight forwards.

Shaw, 24 last month, is a disarming man, the product of a diverse upbringing of which his first seven years were lived in Kenya before the family moved to Spain, where his sporting enthusiasms were football, basketball and swimming. Not until he was 16 and attending Godalming Sixth Form College did he come across rugby. Cranleigh Rugby Club, where his friends played, whipped him into their first XV without so much as a by your leave.

Shaw: burgeoning

"I was lucky in that they had a huge forward pack, so I didn't stand out that much," Shaw said. He had not quite reached his full proportions of 6ft 9in and nearly 20st (at least he can now look his father in the eye). "I'm not one of those guys who go looking for trouble — I remember once playing against a former Scottish international who seemed a bit frustrated by my game — but I can handle myself."

He had to when he first appeared in a senior England shirt, on tour against South Africa A in Kimberley. Shaw stepped off the flight as a replacement for the concussed Johnson and, scarcely 24 hours later, was pitched into a contest against a side including the combative Transvaal lock, Kobus Wiese; sporadic violence was the order of the day, yet the English display heartened the entire tour party. Shaw rates it one of the most demanding games he has played.

The key thing to remember about Shaw is that he is an athlete, a mobile, ball-playing forward in the mould of Ian Jones, the New Zealand lock, whom he partnered for the Barbarians against South Africa in 1994 — only bigger. "Early on, I found I had the ability to read the game, take the shortest route to where the ball was going," Shaw said. "That, rather than speed, is what mobility is about.

"If I don't get my hands on the ball, get into positions to take on other players or make tackles, then I don't enjoy the game so much. I don't play just to push in the scrums and jump in the lineouts."

Mundane though those chores may be, however, he does them well; playing against the New Zealand Barbarians and the world-class pairing of Jones and Robin Brooke in November taught him much. Pedro Sporleder and German Llanes were even more demanding when Argentina came calling in December.

The test of character which is the five nations' championship will continue his rugby development and, for now, the future looks bright.

England A team read from flawed script

Ireland A 30
England A 44

FROM DAVID HANDS IN DUBLIN

SHOULD England's seniors offer the same generous start to Ireland today as their A team did at Donnybrook 24 hours earlier, they may find recovery slightly more awkward. Within 13 minutes, the Irish had scored 19 points and it was scarcely tactical finesse that dragged the visitors back into contention.

The quick wit and application of planned moves was a joy for the men in green, but, as is so frequently the case — Ireland have won only one of these second-string meetings — they could not sustain the effort against heavier opponents. In particular, they could not quell the activities of the English back row, which initially held their side together and then allowed them to expand.

Though ten tries were scored, this was a shapeless, inaccurate game that reflected little credit on either side, save for some notably individual performances — by McQuilkin and Walsh for Ireland, by Diprose and Back for an England side that, after overcoming the Scots with ease last month, were caught cold.

SCORERS: Ireland A: Tries: Keane, O'Shea, Walsh, Malone. Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Keane (2). England A: Tries: Adebayo, Diprose, Benton, Greenstock, Back, Mapletoft. Conversions: Mapletoft (4). Penalty goals: Mapletoft (2).

IRELAND A: C O'Shea (London Irish, captain); D Crotty (Garryowen), K McQuilkin (Lansdowne), K Keane (Garryowen), N Woods (London Irish); P Burke (Bristol), S McIvor (Garryowen); H Hurley (Moseley), * M McDermott (Lansdowne), G Walsh (Northampton), S Duncan (Malone), S Jameson (St Mary's College), B Cusack (Bath), K Dawson (London Irish), B Cronin (Garryowen). Burke replaced by N Malone (Leicester, 19min), Keane replaced by M Lynch (Young Munster, 76), Walsh replaced by A McKeen (Lansdowne, 76).

ENGLAND A: N Beal (Northampton); A Adebayo (Bath), N Greenstock (Wasps), W Greenwood (Leicester, captain), D Luger (Harlequins); M Mapletoft (Gloucester), S Benton (Gloucester); R Hardwick (Coventry), D West (Leicester), J Mallett (Bath), M Corry (Bristol), G Archer (Newcastle), J Fowler (Sale), N Back (Leicester), A Diprose (Saracens). Corry replaced by S Ojomoh (Bath, 61min). Referee: P Adams (Wales).

A try in the fourth minute of injury-time gave Richard Governey the chance of a conversion which won Ireland the under-21 international with England 28-27 at Greystones.

SCORERS: Ireland Under-21: Tries: Wallace (2), O'Neill. Conversions: Governey (2). Penalty goals: Governey (2). Dropped goal: Governey. England Under-21: Tries: J Worsley, Winters, Horsman, Gustard. Conversions: Hitchmough (2). Penalty goal: Hitchmough.

HOCKEY

Cannock face injury worry for key match

CANNOCK have plenty to think about when they play Hounslow in the National League premier division tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes). They have worries about a hand injury to Bob Crutchley, a key figure in attack, that will only be assuaged if he passes a fitness test before the match, and they will be carefully watching the form of Teddington, who lie only a point behind them at the top of the table.

Before Cannock and Hounslow take the field at Chiswick, a confident Teddington will play Guildford at the same venue earlier in the day. "We hope to make it nine wins on the trot," Neil Campling, the Teddington manager, said. He would settle, therefore, for a repeat of the last time the teams met, on October 20, when Teddington snatched a 5-4 after Guildford had pulled back a 4-0 deficit.

Old Loughtonians, with two goals apiece from Chris Bloor and Chris Gladman, won their opening game 5-3 against the Spanish champions, Aldeasa Valdeluz, in the European indoor club championship A division in Cologne yesterday.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Brawl clubs protest at record fine

By Christopher Irvine

ST HELENS and Wigan were fined a record £15,000 each yesterday, with half suspended for a year, for the brawl during their Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie last Saturday that followed a high tackle for which Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, is serving an eight-match suspension.

Both clubs are to seek legal advice over the refusal of a right of appeal by a subcommittee of the Rugby Football League (RFL) board. In a joint statement, the clubs deplored the levels of fine imposed and the fact that they have no apparent comeback.

In finding St Helens and Wigan guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, after studying a video of the incident, the report of Russell Smith, the referee, and hearing representations from the two clubs, the three-man committee said both teams had displayed a considerable lack of discipline and had caused hurt to the game.

Goulding's stiff-arm challenge on Neil Cowie, a few seconds before the half-time interval, sparked the brawl involving several players. The committee could have ordered individuals involved to appear before the disciplinary committee for separate punishment, but blanket fines on the clubs and an end to the judicial investigation into an unsavoury episode were seen as appropriate.

However, the clubs are unlikely to let the matter rest. They may find that the levels of fine are binding, but St Helens are to use their right of appeal over the duration of Goulding's suspension. Unless he wins a reduction, the Great Britain scrum-half will not be available to the Challenge Cup-holders until after the semi-finals next month. He will also miss the first five Stones Super League games, including the match away to Wigan on March 28.

The severity of Goulding's punishment was indicative of the purge on potentially dangerous tackles being carried out by the RFL. This included a six-match suspension for Steve Walker, the Batley full back, who was sent off in the Challenge Cup defeat last Sunday by Paris Saint-Germain, who also had Adam Peters, a forward, banned for one match for foul play.

Chris Whiteley, the Carlisle forward, will miss one match for fighting in the tie against Dudley Hill, who had Chris Hannah (butting) and Craig Horne (foul tackle) suspended for two and three matches, respectively.

Wigan are still having talks with Va'aiga Tuigamala, but it seems certain that, by next week, the Western Samoa centre will be back permanently in rugby union at Newcastle after the completion of a £1 million deal with the Courage Clubs Championship second division side.

Warrington are insisting that Iestyn Harris, the Wales and Great Britain stand-off half, is no longer available to St Helens, although he is still for sale at £1.35 million. John Smith, Warrington's chief executive, said that Harris had been instructed to resume training because St Helens had failed to put forward an acceptable offer.

IAN STEWART

Janice Manson, left, the defending women's champion, releases a stone during her defeat by Jean Reid at the English national curling championships in Perth yesterday

GOLF

Newcomer Wade beats storm

BEFORE thunder and lightning caused the suspension of play in the second round of the Dimension Data Pro-Am in Sun City yesterday, John Wade, of Australia, and David Frost, of South Africa, were safely in the clubhouse after rounds of 65, which equalled the Lost City course record.

A day on which only 78 of the 160 competitors managed to complete their rounds ended with Wade and Frost sharing the lead on 134, ten under par. They are two strokes ahead of Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, who added a 66 to his first round of 70.

Wade, 28, a newcomer to the European Tour, had spent six years struggling on the Australian circuit before going to the qualifying school last November and winning his card by finishing third.

Frost's challenge was more predictable. Although based in the United States, he has won the Million Dollar Challenge played on the adjacent Gary Player course on three occasions.

In the Australian Masters in Melbourne, the halfway lead was shared by Peter O'Malley, a former winner of the Scottish Open, and Lucas Parsons with a 15-under-par score of 131, leading Tiger Woods, the pre-tournament favourite, by seven shots.

While the two Australians were carving up the Huntingdon course for a second time, Woods dropped shots at the 17th and 18th and finished two behind another of the tournament favourites, Robert Allenby.

Survey gives Harding the cold shoulder

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

THE sporting world has produced a greater ogre than O. J. Simpson. A recent survey in the United States on "product endorsement effectiveness" — this is a country in which popular affection can be measured in fiscal terms — came up with a list of 84 sporting names. People were asked whether they would buy a product if it were endorsed by a series of sports stars.

Michael Jordan, the basketball player, was, as ever, top of the list, followed by a rather notably graceless basketballer called Shaquille O'Neal. And, down in 83rd place, was O. J., last week found to be legally responsible for the death of his wife and her companion.

However, there is a place in the American endorsement hell still deeper. And who fills it? Why, Tonya Harding, of course. Never mind death: Harding was part of the plot in which her fellow skater, Nancy Kerrigan, was whacked on her knee. Harding pleaded guilty to obstructing the course of justice and was fined and put on probation.

Silent witness

More on Tonya, who, though banned from amateur competition, plans to make a comeback skate in Reno a week today. She says that she was the victim of an abduction attempt, but somehow managed to foil it.

She told police that a "bushy-haired man" abducted her at knife-point outside her home in Oregon and forced her to drive her truck out into the wilds. But Tonya, no stranger to the notion of direct action, rammed the truck into a tree, made a break for it, dodged about among the trees and then doubled back to the truck and drove off — leaving the knife-wielder gnashing his bushy teeth in frustration.

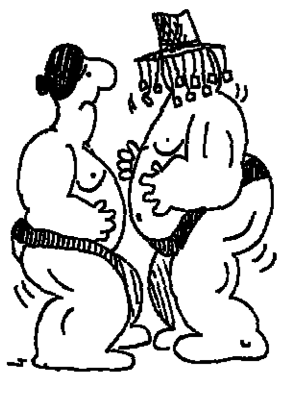
"I have no reason to think it's false," Damon Coates, speaking on behalf of the Clackmass county sheriff, said, "but it would be poor investigation not to look at that."

Harding could not comment herself, because she is under an exclusive media contract connected with her Reno comeback. Now there's a thing.

Holy orders

Perhaps the point is that rugby league, even more than most sports, brings a player face to face with the need for prayer. For the sport is filled with religion. The annual Oxford v Cambridge University rugby league match on March 12 at Richmond will be refereed by a Catholic priest, Father Geoff Hilton, who, as a long-term Swinton fan, no doubt understands the efficacy of prayers to St Jude.

Meanwhile, Bill Ashurst's career as an apostle of violence is long gone. A hell-fire player for Wigan and Wakefield, sent off 15 times for violence, he gave up the game when he got religion. He is now a preacher and charity worker. He offered players spiritual help during the 1995 World Cup and is now leading a Christians in Sport campaign to raise funds for Romania.



This column is proud to announce that Australia will hold its first sumo wrestling tournament in Sydney on June 13 and 14. It will be contested by 40 wrestlers from Japan, none of whom will be Merv Hughes.

Go with the floe

Perhaps the most thrilling sport in the world is ice fishing. You sit by a hole in the ice with a long bit of string and, er, that's it ... apart from the drinking, of course. The hole is inside a nice cosy hut, so it's not as bad as you thought.

Everything was going according to plan as night fell on the 500 participants of the Georgia Fishing Derby on Lake Simooee, 46 miles north of Toronto. The participants fell asleep, an essential ploy in this gruelling sport. However, they were about to leap into unaccustomed action, for a huge chunk of the ice broke off and drifted towards the middle of the lake, taking 300 fishermen with it.

Winds whipped up to 60mph and blizzard conditions prevailed. Six military helicopters buzzed in for a hectic mass rescue. Eventually, all the fishing folk were flown to safety. One, Tom Slade, said: "It was like the hut was moving. I had to wake up my partners and tell them, 'something is wrong here'." Sergeant Denis Michaud summed it up to perfection: "It's all due to the recent weather."

Best of enemies

Life is not easy when you have as many enemies as poor Diego. He has just refused to go to a festival in Montevideo in which the great Paraguayan goalie, José-Luis Chilavert, was to receive an award as South America's best player from the hands of the great gerontocrat, João Havelange, president of Fifa.

"Let's be frank," Diego said. "There were many people there I don't like. I can't attend a prize-giving in which there is Chilavert, against whom I have a court case, or Havelange, against whom I've formed a trade union." Meanwhile, Diego has been asked to help out his old Argentina team-mate, Mario Kempes, by going to play in Albania.

ON THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 0 Watford 2.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield Under-15 International: Wales 2 England 3 (in Cardiff). FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Humberside 2 Shropshire 1. English Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Seaton Burn 3 Newsome shire 2. English Schools Goodyear Under-16 Trophy: St Matthew's (Greater Manchester) 2 Perryfields (West Midlands) 1.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Lens 1 Paris Saint-Germain 2; Nantes 0 Auxerre 0.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p.	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	55	fair	varied	poor	snow	1	14/2
(Steady snowfall improving conditions)								
Schladming	10	40	fair	crust	fair	fine	0	13/2
(Pistes hard in places but good skiing available)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	110	260	good	powder	good	snow	-1	14/2
(Great snow but very poor visibility: avalanche risk)								
Flaine	85	255	good	heavy	good	sleet	3	14/2
(Snowing hard above 2,000m, wet below)								
La Plagne	120	200	good	heavy	good	snow	-1	14/2
(Tricky conditions with snow/wind but snow good)								
La Tania	105	145	good	heavy	slushy	rain	2	14/2
(Snowing above 1,800m, rain below: windy at altitude)								
Tignes	150	220	good	powder	good	snow	-3	14/2
(Limited skiing in blizzard conditions)								
SWITZERLAND								
Villars	20	110	good	powder	worn	rain	4	14/2
(Snowing above 1,300m, rain below: white-out conditions)								
Wengen	10	90	fair	heavy	slushy	snow	4	14/2
(Falling snow wet and heavy: colder weather forecast)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

BASKETBALL

7-UP TROPHY: Semi-finals, second leg: Leicester Riders 92 Chester Jets 93 (Chester win 185-180 on agg); London Towers 80 Sheffield Sharks 71 (London win 154-146 on agg).
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 106 Indiana 90; New York 107 Philadelphia 92; Dallas 99, Golden State 107; Denver 117, LA Lakers 132; Utah 110 Portland 86; Sacramento 105 LA Clippers 98.

BOWLS

YETTON TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Avon Valley bt Egham B 79-77; Teignbridge bt Atherley 81-72; Boston bt Cumbria 98-72; Desborough bt County Arts 87-65.

WELSH LADIES INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION: National championship: Finals (at Ogwr): Singles: A Sutherland (Torfaen) bt J Willis (Swansea) 21-20. Pairs: C Morgan and J Davies (Ogwr) bt J Davies and B Morgan (Radnorshire) 18-16. Fours: Radnorshire bt Rhondda 17-14.

CRICKET

Tri-nation series

Final

South Africa v India

DURBAN (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat India by 17 runs on adjusted target after rain

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson c Karim b Srinath	19
G Kirsten c Dravid b Singh	51
J H Kallis lbw b Singh	49
D J Cullinan b Kumble	60
J N Rhodes b Tendulkar	41
*W J Cronje b Prasad	10
S M Pollock lbw b Prasad	0
L Klusener b Kumble	16
†D J Richardson not out	15
R E Bryson not out	2
Extras (lb 8, w 3, nb 4)	15
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	278

A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-130, 3-130, 4-221, 5-242, 6-242, 7-244, 8-266.

BOWLING: Srinath 10-0-50-1; Prasad 10-1-43-2; Kumble 10-0-45-2; Ankola 7-0-50-0; Singh 10-0-63-2; Tendulkar 3-0-19-1.

INDIA

S C Ganguly c Donald b Pollock	5
*S R Tendulkar c Bryson b Cronje	45
M Azharuddin c Rhodes b Pollock	45
R S Dravid c Kirsten b Klusener	84
A D Jadeja c Hudson b Klusener	18
R Singh run out	15
†S S Karim b Donald	3
J Srinath c Cullinan b Donald	1
S Ankola b Donald	0
A Kumble run out	6
B K V Prasad not out	2
Extras (lb 5, w 2, nb 3)	10
TOTAL (all out, 39.2 overs)	234

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-84, 3-185, 4-198, 5-210, 6-224, 7-224, 8-224, 9-230.

BOWLING: Pollock 8-0-39-2; Bryson 7-0-47-0; Donald 7.2-0-48-3; Cronje 8-0-35-1; Klusener 8-0-42-2; Kallis 3-0-18-0

Umpires: R E Koertzen and C J Mitchley

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Hobart (final day): South Australia 387 and 209-5 dec (G Parker 68 not out); Tasmania 248 (R T Ponting 126; J C Scuden 5-43) and 351-5 (Ponting 145 not out). Tasmania won by five wickets. Perth (first day): Western Australia 317-3 (M P Goodwin 125 not out) v Queensland.
SUPERSPORT SERIES: East London: Border 312-6 (P N Kirsten 127 not out) v Griqualand West. Paarl: Free State 254 (K Venter 59; H Williams 4-58); Boland 28-0. Johannesburg: Natal 294-7 (J N Rhodes 94 not out; C E Eksteen 4-66) v Transvaal. Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 330-5 (L Koen 87, K C Wessels 58) v Northern Transvaal.

CYCLING

TOUR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: Fourth stage (La-Fare-Les-Oliviers to Antibes, 214km): 1, M Strazzer (It, Roslotto): 5hr 11min 24sec; 2, J Kirsipuu (Est); 3, S Barthe (Fr); 4, M Cipollini (It); 5, F Baldato (It); 6, J Capiot (Bel), all same time. Overall standings: 1, E Magnien (Fr, Festina) 9hr 16min 16sec; 2, R Virenque (Fr, Festina) same time; 3, D Rous (Fr, Festina) same time.

GOLF

SUN CITY, South Africa: Dimension Data Pro-Am: Leading completed two-round scores: 134: J Wade (Aus) 69, 65; D Frost (SA) 69, 65. 136: P Harrington (Ire) 70, 66. 137: M McNulty (Zim) 71, 66; I Pyman (Eng) 70, 67; D Chopra (Swe) 72, 67. 138: G van der Nest (SA) 67, 71; W Westner (SA) 72, 66; S Ames (Trin) 69, 69; C Williams (Eng) 69, 69; R McCann (SA) 65, 73. 139: L Westwood (Eng) 70, 69; K Tomori (Japan) 71, 68; C Rocca (It) 67, 72. 140: A Binaghi (It) 71, 69; A McLean (Eng) 70, 70. Play suspended because of lightning.

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN MEN'S INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: A Division (Cologne): Pool A: Old Loughtonians 5 Aldeasa Valdeluz (Sp) 3. Pool B: Hamburg (Ger) 18 Bohemians Prague (Cz) 1; Slagelse (Den) 8 Grasshoppers Zurich (Switz) 5. B Division (Budapest): Pool A: Pocztowiec (Pol) 8 Rosco (Hun) 3; Lille (Fr) 10 Royal Whitestar (Bel) 2. Pool B: Stockholm (Swe) 10 Esinho (Por) 10; Insights Menzies Hill (Scot) 9 Marathon 6 (Cro).

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff Devils 8 Bracknell Bees 2; Manchester Storm 2 Sheffield Steelers 2 (OT); Newcastle Cobras 2 Ayr Scottish Eagles 3.
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 4 Hartford 0; Philadelphia 4 Ottawa 2; Chicago 7 San Jose 3; St Louis 4 NY Rangers 1; Phoenix 2 Colorado 3; Calgary 3 Edmonton 2 (OT); Los Angeles 4 Toronto 4 (OT).

SKIING

SESTRIERE: Alpine world championships: Women: Combined slalom: Leading times: 1, M Gallizio (It) 1min 25.92sec; 2, M Oester (Switz) 1:26.88; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 1:28.22; 4, K Seizinger (Ger) 1:28.27; 5, C Borghi (Switz) 1:28.28; 6, S Brauner (Ger) 1:28.55

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth-round replay: Hull 24 Huddersfield 14.

RUGBY UNION

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Ireland A 30 England A 44; Ireland Under-21 28 England Under-21 27.
TOUR MATCHES: Bristol 21 Auckland 82; Richmond 0 Otago 70.

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: International Open: First round (England unless stated): A Drago (Malta) bt J Prince (N Ire) 5-2, C Small (Scot) bt W Snaddon (Scot) 5-4; S Lee bt N Walker 5-2; S James bt J Woodman 5-3; D Harold bt B Morgan 5-3; A Rosa bt J Ferguson 5-3.

TENNIS

DUBAI: Men's tournament: Second round: J Novak (Cz) bt H-J Davids (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt P Cash (Aus) 3-6, 6-2, 7-5; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 7-6, 6-4, B Becker (Ger) bt S Stolle (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; J Courier (US) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-2, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Novak bt Krajicek 6-2, 6-2; Courier bt Ferreira 6-2, 7-5.
SAN JOSE, California: Men's tournament: Second round: G Rusedski (GB) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-3, 6-3; C Woodruff (US) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.
CHIGWELL: Men's satellite tournament: Second round (GB unless stated): V Liukko (Fin) bt N Weal 7-6, 7-5, L Milligan bt A Musil (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; C Pressley (US) bt R Kelavec (Can) 7-5, 6-3; M Stadling (Swe) bt Ketola (Fin) 6-3, 6-4; D van Uffelen (Bel) bt C Haggard (SA) 6-3, 6-2; T Spinks bt T Larkham (Aus) 6-2, 0-6, 6-4; A Richardson bt A Foster 6-3, 6-3; J Delgado bt E Lenan (Ger) 6-2, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Delgado bt Milligan 6-1, 6-1; Richardson bt Spinks 6-2, 7-5; Van Uffelen bt Liukko 6-3, 6-4, Pressley bt Stadling 7-6, 7-6.
MARSEILLES: Men's tournament: First round: Second round: M Rosset (Switz) bt N Kulti (Swe) 6-3, 7-6; A Chesnokov (Russ) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 6-3; S Bruguera (Sp) bt L Roux (Fr) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, F Santoro (Fr) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-4, 6-4. Quarter-finals: Bruguera bt Chesnokov 6-3, 6-2; T Enqvist (Swe) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

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IRELAND	WINNING MARGIN	ENGLAND
11/2	1-5 pts	11/2
9/1	6-10 pts	4/1
18/1	11-15 pts	4/1
33/1	16-20 pts	5/1
66/1	21-25 pts	8/1

18/1 Drawn Match

HANDICAP BETTING
Wales with an 11 point start
4/5 France 14/1 Draw Wales Evs.
Parc Des Princes, Kick-off 2.00pm, Live on BBC Wales.

FRANCE	WINNING MARGIN	WALES
6/1	1-5 pts	6/1
9/2	6-10 pts	11/1
4/1	11-15 pts	20/1
9/2	16-20 pts	40/1
7/1	21-25 pts	80/1

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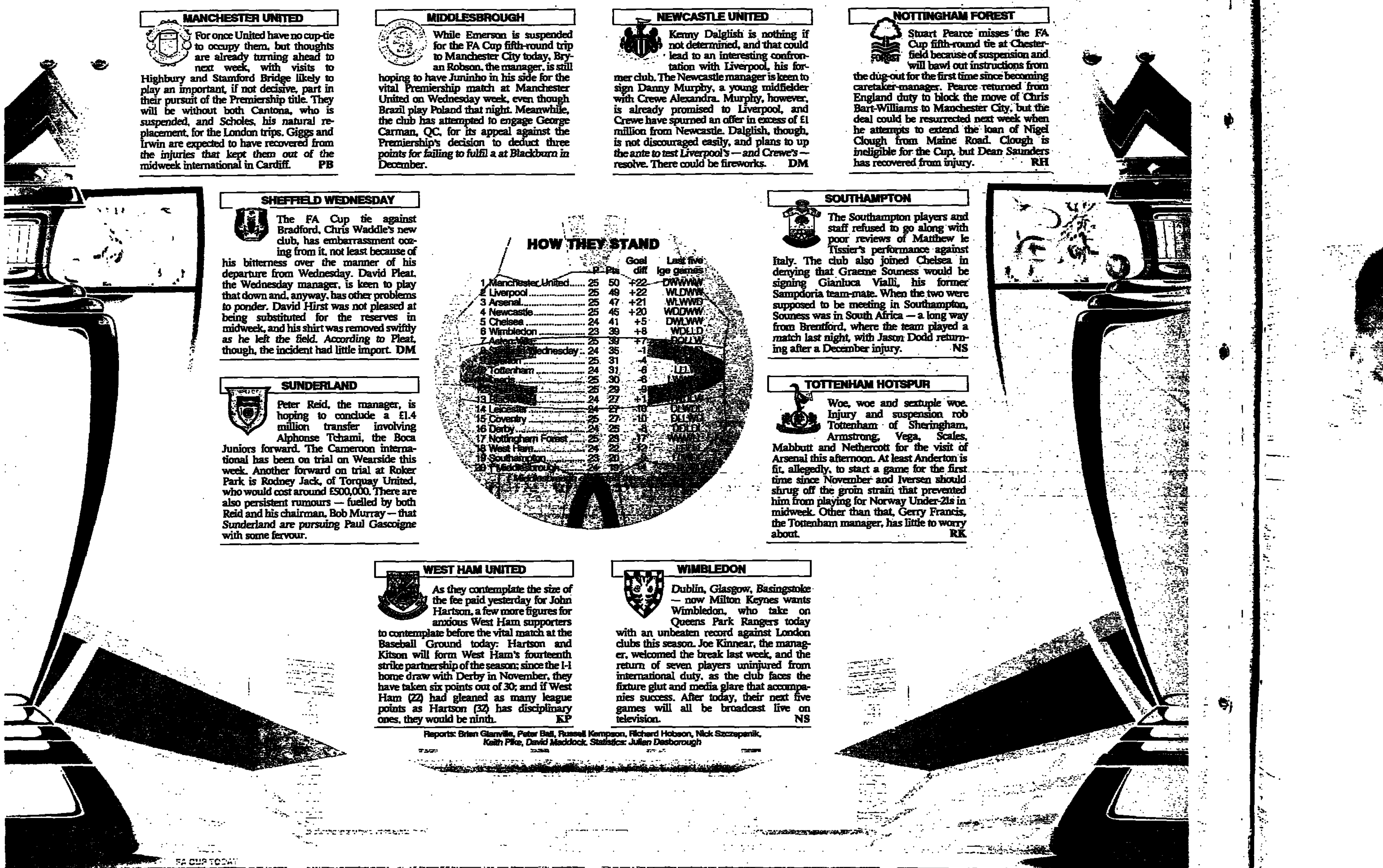
THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE FA CUP AND PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND



ARSENAL

Arsenal hope that Tony Adams, badly missed by England on Wednesday, will have recovered from his ankle injury. Most important of all, Dennis Bergkamp will be back after suspension to load the bullets for Ian Wright, no stranger to suspension himself, to fire — nd no doubt to fire a few on his own account. Paul Merson will doubtless be joining in the fun. But Arséne Wenger, the manager, really must improve Arsenal's on-field behaviour. Suspensions have cost them dear. **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Villa's Premiership prospects are not too bright, after only one win in their last seven outings, but at least Fernando Nelson, their 25-year-old defender, appears to be building a bright future. The Portuguese culture vulture, a frequent visitor to England's castles and stately piles, owns a construction company back home in Porto. "Football is my profession but I wanted to prepare for when it is over," Nelson said. "I have settled well here but I sometimes miss my business." **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Even the dark clouds that hung over Wembley on Wednesday evening had one silver lining — the performance of Rovers' Graeme Le Saux, who completed a remarkable journey back after an horrendous ankle injury. On Wednesday he was arguably England's most effective player. "It was warming to see Graeme return for England," Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker-manager, said. Parkes faces one selection problem: Flitcroft or Bohinen in midfield. **DM**

CHELSEA

The inspirational performances of Gianfranco Zola and Roberto di Matteo for Italy at Wembley on Wednesday suggests that they may be too much for Leicester City at Filbert Street in the FA Cup fifth-round tie tomorrow. Leicester's chief hope lies in the possibility that Steve Claridge can unsettle Chelsea's defence. The Vialli stand-off continues. It will be hard for him to force his way back into a team in which Mark Hughes partners Zola so profitably. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Are Coventry's funds limitless? Not content with sanctioning a £23 million outlay on players in 21 months, Bryan Richardson, the club chairman, is now talking about moving the ground from Highfield Road. "We have not looked into it in detail but it is something we may have to consider," he said. Should the Nationwide League beckon for City in the near future, as is conceivable, Highfield Road might not be so cramped after all. Instead, Richardson could buy some more players. **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Without a league win since last November, Derby have four home games within the next month to halt their slide towards the relegation zone. While declining, after much thought, to bid for Paul Kitson, who plays for West Ham United at the Baseball Ground in the Premiership today, Jim Smith, the manager, is hoping to sign another striker by the end of next week. Ward and Willems are injured and Rahmberg is playing for Sweden in a tournament in Bangkok. **RH**

EVERTON

Everton's injury problems eased slightly during the week, with Joe Parkinson and Craig Short back in harness and Duncan Ferguson, Gary Speed and Nick Barmby all returning unscathed from international duty. All are in the squad, along with Short and Parkinson, for the match in Jersey this evening against a Jersey Select XI. Southall may have to wait for the reserve match next week for his next appearance — if he does not become Oldham manager first. **PB**

LEEDS UNITED

The row with the FA over Lee Bowyer's appearance for the England Under-21 team lingers on, with Bowyer awaiting a late fitness test to see if he can play today. Lee Sharpe and Tony Yeboah both played for the reserves in midweek and might be included in the squad, but the most likely change is the return of Radebe, probably for Ian Harte, one of Ireland's successes in Cardiff. The tie pits George Graham against his great friend, and mentor, Terry Venables. **PB**

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester have produced some of their best performances against the bigger clubs this season, but the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Chelsea tomorrow could hardly have come at a worse time. The central spine of the side has been displaced by suspensions for Neil Lennon, Muzzy Izzet, Emile Heskey and Matt Elliott. At least Steve Walsh, the captain, is fit again, while Mark Robins, still transfer-listed but with a history of important Cup goals, may make a rare appearance up front. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

Roy Evans, the manager, has not wasted time licking his wounds during Liverpool's enforced lay-off. Instead he has studied the transfer market and arrived at a couple of surprise names. First up is Garreth Whalley, one of the most accomplished midfield players outside the Premiership. The Crewe man has joined on an extended trial, with a view to a permanent move. The second is Pierluigi Casiraghi: the Italy forward is keen on a move to England. **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

For once United have no cup-tie to occupy them, but thoughts are already turning ahead to next week, with visits to Highbury and Stamford Bridge likely to play an important, if not decisive, part in their pursuit of the Premiership title. They will be without both Cantona, who is suspended, and Scholes, his natural replacement, for the London trips. Giggs and Irwin are expected to have recovered from the injuries that kept them out of the midweek international in Cardiff. **PB**

MIDDLESBROUGH

While Emerson is suspended for the FA Cup fifth-round trip to Manchester City today, Bryan Robson, the manager, is still hoping to have Juninho in his side for the vital Premiership match at Manchester United on Wednesday week, even though Brazil play Poland that night. Meanwhile, the club has attempted to engage George Carman, QC, for its appeal against the Premiership's decision to deduct three points for failing to fulfil a at Blackburn in December.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Kenny Dalglish is nothing if not determined, and that could lead to an interesting confrontation with Liverpool, his former club. The Newcastle manager is keen to sign Danny Murphy, a young midfielder with Crewe Alexandra. Murphy, however, is already promised to Liverpool, and Crewe have spurned an offer in excess of £1 million from Newcastle. Dalglish, though, is not discouraged easily, and plans to up the ante to test Liverpool's — and Crewe's — resolve. There could be fireworks. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Stuart Pearce misses the FA Cup fifth-round tie at Chesterfield because of suspension and will bawl out instructions from the dug-out for the first time since becoming caretaker-manager. Pearce returned from England duty to block the move of Chris Bart-Williams to Manchester City, but the deal could be resurrected next week when he attempts to extend the loan of Nigel Clough from Maine Road. Clough is ineligible for the Cup, but Dean Saunders has recovered from injury. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

The FA Cup tie against Bradford, Chris Waddle's new club, has embarrassment oozing from it, not least because of his bitterness over the manner of his departure from Wednesday. David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is keen to play that down and, anyway, has other problems to ponder. David Hirst was not pleased at being substituted for the reserves in midweek, and his shirt was removed swiftly as he left the field. According to Pleat, though, the incident had little import. **DM**

SUNDERLAND

Peter Reid, the manager, is hoping to conclude a £1.4 million transfer involving Alphonse Tchami, the Boca Juniors forward. The Cameroon international has been on trial on Wearside this week. Another forward on trial at Roker Park is Rodney Jack, of Torquay United, who would cost around £500,000. There are also persistent rumours — fuelled by both Reid and his chairman, Bob Murray — that Sunderland are pursuing Paul Gascoigne with some fervour.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Manchester United	25	50	+22	DWWWW
2 Liverpool	25	49	+22	WLDWW
3 Arsenal	25	47	+21	WLWWD
4 Newcastle	25	45	+20	WDDWW
5 Chelsea	24	41	+5	DWLWW
6 Wimbledon	23	39	+8	WDLLD
7 Aston Villa	25	39	+7	DDLLW
8 Sheffield Wednesday	24	35	-1	[illegible]
9 Everton	25	31	-4	[illegible]
10 Tottenham	24	31	-6	[illegible]
11 Leeds	25	30	-6	[illegible]
12 [illegible]	25	29	-9	[illegible]
13 Blackburn	24	27	+1	[illegible]
14 Leicester	24	27	-10	DLWDL
15 Coventry	25	27	-10	DLLWD
16 Derby	24	25	-8	DDLDL
17 Nottingham Forest	25	23	-17	[illegible]
18 West Ham	24	22	-12	[illegible]
19 Southampton	23	20	-9	[illegible]
20 †Middlesbrough	24	19	-14	[illegible]

† Middlesbrough [illegible]

SOUTHAMPTON

The Southampton players and staff refused to go along with poor reviews of Matthew le Tissier's performance against Italy. The club also joined Chelsea in denying that Graeme Souness would be signing Gianluca Vialli, his former Sampdoria team-mate. When the two were supposed to be meeting in Southampton, Souness was in South Africa — a long way from Brentford, where the team played a match last night, with Jason Dodd returning after a December injury. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Woe, woe and sextuple woe. Injury and suspension rob Tottenham of Sheringham, Armstrong, Vega, Scales, Mabbutt and Nethercott for the visit of Arsenal this afternoon. At least Anderton is fit, allegedly, to start a game for the first time since November and Iversen should shrug off the groin strain that prevented him from playing for Norway Under-21s in midweek. Other than that, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, has little to worry about. **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

As they contemplate the size of the fee paid yesterday for John Hartson, a few more figures for anxious West Ham supporters to contemplate before the vital match at the Baseball Ground today: Hartson and Kitson will form West Ham's fourteenth strike partnership of the season; since the 1-1 home draw with Derby in November, they have taken six points out of 30; and if West Ham (22) had gleaned as many league points as Hartson (32) has disciplinary ones, they would be ninth. **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Dublin, Glasgow, Basingstoke — now Milton Keynes wants Wimbledon, who take on Queens Park Rangers today with an unbeaten record against London clubs this season. Joe Kinnear, the manager, welcomed the break last week, and the return of seven players uninjured from international duty, as the club faces the fixture glut and media glare that accompanies success. After today, their next five games will all be broadcast live on television. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julien Desborough

FA CUP TODAY

BIRMINGHAM CITY v WREXHAM

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD (home team): P 1, W 1, D 0, L 0, F 1, A 0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, C Hendry, G le Saux, G Fitcroft, T Sherwood, W McKinlay, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Donis, N Marker, S Given, L Bohinen, P Warhurst, G Croft, N Gudmundsson.

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, B Borrows, P Williams, M Hall, P Telfer, K Richardson, G McAllister, E Jess, N Whelan, D Huckerby, P Ndlovu, W Boland, A Evtushok, J Filan.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v COVENTRY CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD (home team): P 1, W 1, D 0, L 0, F 3, A 1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

BIRMINGHAM CITY (possible): I Bennett, K Brown, M Johnson, J Bass, S Bruce, B Horne, C Holland, J Hunt, P Devlin, A Legg, P Furlong.

WREXHAM (from): A Marriott, D Brace, M McGregor, B Jones, S Williams, A Humes, B Carey, M Chalk, C Skinner, K Russell, B Hughes, D Brammer, P Ward, K Connolly, S Watkin, S Morris.

CHESTERFIELD v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Sold out

CUP RECORD (home team): P 2, W 1, D 0, L 1, F 6, A 6.

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHESTERFIELD (from): B Mercer, A Leaning, D Carr, T Curtis, S Dyche, J Hewitt, M Jules, P Holland, J Howard, A Lormor, K Davies, A Morris, C Perkins, S Gaunt, A Mitchell, C Beaumont.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, D Phillips, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Bart-Williams, A I Haaland, S Gemmill, I Woan, K Campbell, S Saunders, P McGregor, S Guinan, C Allen, B Roy, N Jerkan, S Blatherwick, A Fettis.

LEEDS UNITED v PORTSMOUTH

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD (home team): P 2, W 1, D 1, L 0, F 3, A 1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, R Molenaar, G Halle, D Wetherall, L Radebe, G Kelly, L Bowyer, M Jackson, C Palmer, A Dorigo, R Wallace, B Deane, I Rush, A Yeboah, L Sharpe, I Harte, M Ford, A Grey, M Beeney.

PORTSMOUTH (from): A Knight, R Pethick, A Awford, R Perrett, A Thomson, A McLoughlin, F Simpson, D Hillier, P Hall, L Bradbury, M Svensson, D Burton, S Igoe, A Dobson, J Durnin, A Whitbread.

MANCHESTER CITY v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Sold out

CUP RECORD (home team): P 5, W 1, D 2, L 2, F 5, A 5.

HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER CITY (from): M Margetson, L Crooks, I Brightwell, N Summerbee, K Symons, R Ingram, S Lomas, E McGoldrick, N Heaney, G Kinkladze, U Rösler, J Whitley, G Creaney, P Dickov, P Beagrie, M Brown.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): B Roberts, C Fleming, N Cox, G Festa, S Vickers, D Whyte, R Mustoe, P Stamp, C Blackmoor, C Hignett, Juninho, F Ravanelli, M Beck, V Kinder, A Moore, A Miller.

WIMBLEDON v QUEENS PARK RANGERS

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD: no previous meeting.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from) N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, C Perry, V Jones, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, N Ardley, M Harford, B McAllister, J Goodman, B Murphy.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (from): J Sommer, M Graham, R Brevett, M Brazier, S Yates, A McDonald, K Ready, J Spencer, G Peacock, M Hateley, S Barker, T Sinclair, D Dichio, C Plummer.

PREMIERSHIP TODAY

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 1-0, 1-2, —, —, —, 0-2, —, —, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, P McGrath, I Stimac, L Carsley, R van der Laan, A Asanovic, C Daily, C Powell, A Ward, D Sturridge, P Trollope, S Flynn, P Simpson, M Taylor, N Wright, K Cooper.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks, K Rowland, M Hughes, I Bishop, D Williamson, P Kitson, J Hartson, H Porfirio, S Lazaridis, R Ferdinand, M Bowen, F Lampard, L Sealey.

DERBY COUNTY v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 1-2, 2-3, 2-1, 0-0, 1-1, 2-0, 1-1, 0-0, 1-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Carr, D Austin, J Edinburgh, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, A Nielsen, D Anderton, A Sinton, R Fox, S Iversen, R Rosenthal, R Allen, J Dozzell, E Baardsen.

ARSENAL (from): J Lukic, M Keown, A Adams, S Marshall, S Bould, L Dixon, R Parlour, P Vieira, P Merson, N Winterburn, D Bergkamp, I Wright.

LEADING SCORERS

20: A Shearer (Newcastle United).
17: I Wright (Arsenal).
12: D Yorke (Aston Villa), R Fowler (Liverpool), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United).
11: O G Solskjaer (Manchester United).
10: C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), *M le Tissier (Southampton).*

FA CUP BETTING

3-1 Chelsea, 5-1 Leeds United, Wimbledon, 6-1 Sheffield Wednesday, 10-1 Middlesbrough, Nottingham Forest, 14-1 Derby County, 16-1 Leicester, 20-1 Manchester City, 33-1 others. Odds supplied by Ladbrokes.

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

FA CUP TOMORROW

BRADFORD CITY v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD: no previous meeting.

HOW THEY LINE UP

BRADFORD CITY (from): M Schwarzer, R Liburd, W Jacobs, J Dreyer, N Mohan, A O'Brien, J Pinto, C Waddle, L Duxbury, Edinho, M Stallard, D Hamilton, M Sas, G Cowans, R Steiner, A Kiwomya.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, P Atherton, S Nicol, D Stefanovic, D Walker, I Nolan, M Pembridge, G Hyde, G Whittingham, D Hirst, R Blinker, A Booth, W Collins, O Trustfull, R Humphreys, B Carbone.

LEICESTER CITY v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Seats available

CUP RECORD (home team): P 3, W 0, D 1, L 2, F 1, A 6.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, M Elliott, S Prior, S Walsh, I Marshall, S Wilson, F Rolling, S Campbell, M Robins, S Claridge, S Taylor, G Parker, K Poole.

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, S Clarke, F Leboeuf, F Sinclair, D Petrescu, E Newton, R di Matteo, D Wise, S Minto, G Zola, M Hughes, G Vialli, E Johnsen, A Myers, P Hughes, J Morris, F Grodas.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.35pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

1.30pm Sky Sports Bradford City v Sheffield Wednesday (live)

4pm BBC1 Leicester City v Chelsea (live)

FOOTBALL

Kamara tackles new career as a style guru

Peter Ball meets a manager who is determined to keep high ideals

FA CUP

On Thursday, Littlewoods took the FA Cup to Bradford as part of its publicity campaign. It was the closest Chris Kamara, the Bradford City manager, has been to the trophy in 22 years in the game — but with Sheffield Wednesday due at Valley Parade in the fifth round tomorrow, who knows?

The idea of Kamara as a manager was not something that readily occurred in his youth, when his disciplinary record testified to enthusiasm and competitiveness rather than managerial qualities. Yet who knows who will make a good manager?

"As a young player at Portsmouth, I was George Graham's legs," Kamara said, "but I would never have dreamed that George Graham would become a football manager — not in a month of Sundays."

As the end of his playing days approached, Kamara was preparing for a career outside football, some success on the after-dinner speaker circuit suggesting one alternative. Instead, Bradford turned to him.

He has taken to the job with instant success, taking the club to promotion via the play-offs last year. He did it, moreover, by playing some excellent football.

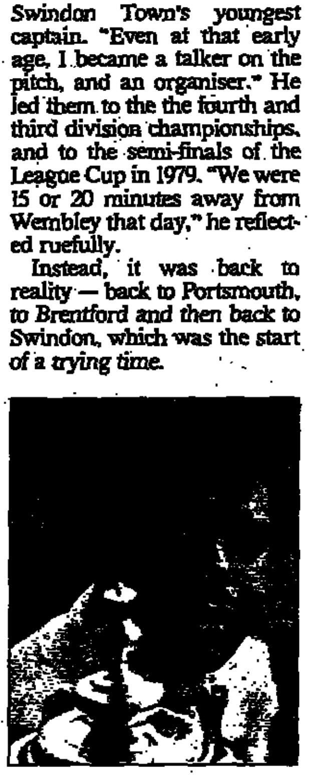
This season, the lack of a goalscorer has left Bradford struggling near the foot of the Nationwide League first division, but rising gates reveal that the football they play is worth supporting, as does Cup success, the win over Everton in the fourth round earning them the giant-killer of the round award.

The manager is already threatening to outstrip the player, who enjoyed a chequered career. "Twenty years as a player, a marvellous career, but without really winning a lot," he said.

The longevity testifies to the character, determination and competitive qualities that made managers as diverse as Howard Wilkinson, Dave Bassett and David Pleat, tomorrow's opponent, ready to find a use for him.

The best years came early — and late. At 18, his maturity was such that he was Portsmouth's penalty-taker in his first season; at 21, he was Swindon Town's youngest captain. "Even at that early age, I became a talker on the pitch, and an organiser." He led them to the the fourth and third division championships, and to the semi-finals of the League Cup in 1979. "We were 15 or 20 minutes away from Wembley that day," he reflected ruefully.

Instead, it was back to reality — back to Portsmouth, to Brentford and then back to Swindon, which was the start of a trying time.



Kamara: new image

Like many of football's hard men, Kamara is an idealist, as his Bradford team that includes Chris Waddle, the Brazilian, Edinho, and Sergio Pinto suggests. A competitor himself, he believes in passing the ball and in talented players.

Those beliefs, however, were not in favour at Swindon under Lou Macari and the end of his second spell there was the low point of his career. A game at Shrewsbury Town in February 1988 got out of hand, culminating in Kamara flattening Jim Melrose, the Shrewsbury forward, with a punch at the end of the game.

Kamara was suspended and charged, the first footballer to be taken to court for a footballing incident. He pleaded guilty to assault causing grievous bodily harm and was fined. It was a sad, and uncharacteristic, end to his Swindon career. "At the end of the day, I did what I did," he said. "I got my punishment, took it and came back, I would say, a better person."

His rehabilitation was to be successful, as he went to Stoke City and then to Leeds United, winning the second division championship to reach the top flight at the ripe old age of 32. "I was part of the Leeds team that went to the top of the table the year they won the League," he said.

"I wish I'd played for Howard Wilkinson a lot earlier. I learned a lot. I always wanted to play in a good side and going to Leeds I did that, with Strachan and McAllister — and with Eric Cantona, if only for a week."

It was the start of a late spell in the top division and led on to Luton Town, where he met up with Pleat. Sheffield Wednesday are less flamboyant than Pleat's teams of old — instead the hell-for-leather attacking side will be the Bantams of Bradford under their old fighting cock.

Gallacher enjoys striking revival

KEVIN GALLACHER

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Kevin McCarra

ANTON WANT/ALLSPORT

Gallacher has finally regained his form and fitness after three years of constant battle against injury

Scotland may have drawn 0-0 with Estonia on Tuesday, but Kevin Gallacher has hardly been able to spare a moment for moping, not with his daughter, Megan, clinging to the dad she missed while he was away on World Cup business. Even without the consoling distractions of family life, gloom would still have had difficulty catching his eye.

The Blackburn Rovers forward is fitter than he has been at any point since breaking a leg three years ago and the team's form is sturdy enough to suggest that they will beat one of his former clubs, Coventry City, at Ewood Park in the fourth round of the FA Cup this afternoon. Gallacher's current effectiveness rebuts the notion that he is one of those unlucky players whose career is written up, principally, in medical files.

His bedevilled attempts to reclaim health took place at a club that has also been through a tormented rehabilitation. For Blackburn, it has been as difficult to recover the prestige of 1995, the FA Carling Premiership-winning year, as it is for a player to rebuild wasted muscle. The sale of Alan Shearer to Newcastle United for £15 million last summer even drew accusations that the club was reconciled to becoming nondescript again.

It had always seemed that each Blackburn victory was a demonstration of Shearer's willpower. Team-mates were content to be overshadowed so long as the opposition was being overwhelmed. Shearer's appetite for goals devours entire penalty areas, too, and puts his partner on the margins.

"It was a case of ten men working around Alan," Gallacher said. "The other striker would probably sacrifice eight or nine goals a season to make runs for Alan, but we were all happy with that because it worked. He gave us self-belief. When Alan was taken away, it was very difficult to accept and by the time we did get our confidence back, it was too late for the manager."

Ray Harford resigned in October, to be replaced by Tony Parkes, who has the job on a caretaker basis until the expected arrival of Sven Göran Eriksson in the summer. If results were the sole criterion, Parkes, however, would himself have been a resounding candidate for the post. Blackburn recorded just one victory in their first fourteen Premiership games of the season, but there have been five wins in the ten matches since then.

Although he was appointed only on a temporary basis, Parkes has shown no inhibition in exercising his judgment. Harford's 4-4-2 system is gone, replaced by a 4-3-3 system in which Gallacher and Jason Wilcox operate just behind Chris Sutton. Such are the intricacies of tactics, however, that the inclusion of an additional forward was a defensive measure.

"We were losing too many goals," Gallacher said, "and Tony wanted to get things right at the back while still keeping a positive attitude. Beating Liverpool 3-0 in November proved to us all that it worked and the three of us in attack were able to stop them from building their moves from deep positions."

With his pace and energy, Gallacher can now cope with all the duties imposed by that system, yet regaining vitality was an ordeal after the broken leg. When he first attempted to make a comeback, the fracture reopened. Later still, there was a severe hamstring injury. "It can be very hard when you are trying to rebuild muscles you had never known were there," Gallacher said.

"The European championship was a godsend because it kept me going through the summer and I only had two weeks off for a holiday. By the time this season started, I really did feel ready for it."

His professional life has been battered by all the injuries, ensuring that he made only one appearance in the championship-winning season, but Gallacher is not even rueful. There is a placidity about him, as if he is determined to be happy with whatever the fortunes of football bring. For the moment, he finds satisfaction in a side that once more contains a healthy Graeme Le Saux and a revitalised Sutton.

At 30, Gallacher is also mature enough to recognise the fundamental incentives of the game. "The better the team does, the more chance we all have of keeping our places when the new manager comes," he said.

Even if the pitch this afternoon will be strewn with Scots, there can be no fellowship. "Coventry are a team of hidden talents," Gallacher said, trusting that they will remain concealed a little longer.

ATHLETICS

Civil war taking its toll of Arnold

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

LESS than three years after Frank Dick resigned as Great Britain's head coach, claiming his work was underfunded, Malcolm Arnold, his successor, has threatened to do the same. "I am thoroughly sick and tired of being in the jaws of a vice," Arnold said yesterday, referring to the dual pressures of the sport's politics and the needs of athletes and coaches.

"It is like trying to create peace in a civil war," Arnold said. "I have had enough of it all and I wonder how much longer I can stand it. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) needs stability and, unless that can be given, I would find it very difficult to retain an interest in working for the federation."

Uncertainty surrounds Arnold's £4 million-a-year application for National Lottery funding to aid development. Sir Rodney Walker, the chairman of the English Sports Council, has indicated that, unless the federation resolves its internal bickering and improves its adminstration, it may not get Lottery money.

"I despair of anything happening," Arnold said. "We do not seem to be any further down the line. It is depressing that they are standing there with money in their back pocket making threats to the sport. There have not been too many overtures to the sport to help it get its act together.

"The Sports Council should be guiding us towards rehabilitation rather than swatting at us. We are now one year into the next Olympiad and people will be demanding results. If they do not want success, leave us alone and let us wallow in our poverty.

"Athletes and coaches are asking me for support which I cannot give. I identify with what Rodney Walker says. Nobody in their right mind would give money to a situation which is unstable. The stabilising influence can only come from help from the Sports Council."

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Cup
Fourth round
(-) Blackburn v Coventry

Fifth round
(-) Birmingham v Wrexham
(-) * Chesterfield v Nottingham Forest
(-) Leeds v Portsmouth
(-) * Manchester City v Middlesbrough
(-) Wimbledon v QPR

FA Carling Premiership
(-) * Derby v West Ham
(-) * Tottenham v Arsenal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	14	8	3	50	28	50
Liverpool	25	14	7	4	42	20	49
Arsenal	25	13	8	4	44	23	47
Newcastle	25	13	6	6	50	30	45
Chelsea	24	11	8	5	38	33	41
Wimbledon	23	11	6	6	36	28	39
Aston Villa	25	11	6	8	32	25	39
Sheff Wed	24	8	11	5	28	27	35
Everton	25	8	7	10	34	38	31
Tottenham	24	9	4	11	27	33	31
Leeds	25	8	6	11	21	27	30
Sunderland	25	7	8	10	23	32	29
Blackburn	24	6	9	9	26	25	27
Leicester	24	7	6	11	25	35	27
Coventry	25	6	9	10	23	33	27
Derby	24	5	10	9	22	30	25
Nottm For	25	5	8	12	23	40	23
West Ham	24	5	7	12	20	32	22
Southampton	23	5	5	13	32	41	20
† Middlesbro	24	5	7	12	30	44	19

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

Nationwide League
First division
(-) Bolton v Sheffield Utd
(-) Charlton v Barnsley
(1) Grimsby v Huddersfield
(2) Norwich v West Bromwich
(3) Oxford Utd v Oldham
(4) Port Vale v Ipswich
(5) Southend v Stoke
(6) Wolverhampton v Crystal Palace

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	32	18	10	4	67	42	64
Wolvrhmptn	31	16	7	8	44	28	55
Barnsley	30	15	9	6	51	35	54
Sheff Utd	31	14	8	9	52	36	50
Norwich	31	14	7	10	44	44	49
C Palace	30	12	10	8	56	33	46
Stoke	30	13	7	10	39	41	46
Portsmouth	32	13	6	13	38	37	45
Ipswich	31	11	11	9	43	39	44
QPR	32	11	10	11	44	45	43
Tranmere	31	12	7	12	43	42	43
Port Vale	32	10	13	9	38	36	43
[illegible]ndon	32	12	6	14	45	42	42
[illegible]ord Utd	31	11	7	13	42	40	40
Huddersfield	32	10	10	12	37	44	40
West Brom	32	8	14	10	50	56	38
Charlton	30	11	5	14	33	41	38
Reading	31	9	10	12	40	48	37
Birmingham	29	9	10	10	32	33	37
Man City	30	10	5	15	36	43	35
Bradford	32	7	10	15	30	49	31
Grimsby	30	7	9	14	38	53	30
Southend	31	6	11	14	28	55	29
Oldham	29	6	10	13	30	38	28

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Gresley; Burton Albion v Gravesend and Northfleet; Cheltenham v Chelmsford; Crawley v Nuneaton; Dorchester v Kings Lynn; Gloucester v Hastings; Halesowen v Baldock; Merthyr v Sudbury Tn; Newport AFC v Cambridge City; Salisbury v Atherstone; Sittingbourne v Worcester City. *Midland division:* Bilston v Redditch; Corby v Stafford; Evesham v Bedworth; Grantham v RC Warwick; Raunds T v Dudley Town; Rothwell v Moor Green; Solihull Boro v Hinckley Town; Stourbridge v Shepshed D; Sutton Coldfield Town v Tamworth; VS Rugby v Ilkeston. Southern division: Bashley v Cirencester Town; Fareham v Tonbridge Angels; Forest Green v Erith and Belvedere; Havant v Cinderford; St Leonards v Fleet T; Trowbridge v Fisher London; Waterlooville v Yate; Weston-super-Mare v Newport (IoW); Weymouth v Dartford; Witney v Margate

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Guiseley; Bishop Auckland v Chorley; Blyth Spartans v Runcorn; Emley v Bamber Bridge; Gainsborough v Witton; Hyde v Accrington Stanley; Knowsley v Boston; Leek v Frickley; Marine v Buxton; Spennymoor v Alfreton; Winsford v Lancaster. First division: Atherton LR v Flixton; [illegible]ngleton v Whitley Bay; Curzon Ashton v [illegible]tlock Town; Droylsden v Leigh; Eastwood Town v Lincoln United; Farsley Celtic v Gretna; Great Harwood v Bradford Pk Ave; Harrogate Town v Warrington; Netherfield v Stocksbridge PS; Radcliffe v Workington; Worksop v Ashton United.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Manchester v Watford; Manchester v Watford

Second division
(7) Bournemouth v Burnley
(8) Bristol Rovers v Luton
(9) Crewe v Walsall
(10) Millwall v Rotherham
(11) Notts County v Blackpool
(—) Peterborough v Bristol City
(12) Plymouth v Bury
(13) Preston v Wycombe
(14) Stockport v Shrewsbury
(15) York v Gillingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	30	15	11	4	48	29	56
Luton	28	15	7	6	47	29	52
Bristol City	30	13	9	8	48	31	48
Bury	27	13	9	5	41	27	48
Crewe	29	15	2	12	41	33	47
Chesterfld	28	13	7	8	25	20	46
Burnley	31	13	6	12	45	36	45
Stockport	28	12	9	7	39	31	45
Walsall	29	13	6	10	38	31	45
Wrexham	28	11	12	5	38	31	45
Watford	28	10	15	3	29	21	45
Millwall	30	12	8	10	38	40	44
Bournemouth	33	11	8	14	31	36	41
Shrewsbury	31	10	9	12	41	48	39
Blackpool	29	9	11	9	37	31	38
Preston	31	10	6	15	30	37	36
Gillingham	30	9	8	13	32	39	35
Bristol R	30	8	10	12	29	32	34
Plymouth	30	7	12	11	33	44	33
York	30	9	6	15	30	47	33
Wycombe	29	8	6	15	28	41	30
Peterboro	30	6	11	13	40	52	29
Notts County	30	5	9	16	22	39	24
Rotherham	29	4	9	16	24	45	21

Third division
(16) Carlisle v Brighton
(17) Darlington v Scunthorpe
(18) Doncaster v Barnet
(19) Fulham v Wigan
(20) Hartlepool v Torquay
(21) Hull v Exeter
(22) Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd
(23) Mansfield v Lincoln
(24) Rochdale v Northampton
(25) Swansea v Scarborough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	32	19	5	8	55	31	62
Wigan	30	18	5	7	54	35	59
Carlisle	30	17	8	5	44	27	59
Swansea	33	16	6	11	43	35	54
Camb Utd	31	16	5	10	42	39	53
Colchester	32	12	15	5	48	34	51
Northmptn	31	13	7	11	50	34	46
Cardiff	31	14	4	13	39	39	46
Scarborough	32	11	12	9	44	40	45
Chester	30	12	9	9	36	31	45
Lincoln	32	12	8	12	44	50	44
Mansfield	31	10	12	9	33	30	42
Torquay	30	12	5	13	31	33	41
L Orient	33	10	10	13	30	32	40
Hull	31	9	13	9	28	33	40
Scunthorpe	29	11	5	13	43	45	38
Hartlepool	32	10	6	16	38	48	36
Rochdale	30	8	12	10	35	38	36
Barnet	30	8	12	10	29	30	36
Hereford	32	9	6	17	35	48	33
Exeter	32	8	8	16	29	44	32
Darlington	31	8	7	16	43	58	31
Doncaster	31	8	5	18	33	54	29
† Brighton	32	7	7	18	35	51	26

† Brighton deducted two points
(Not including last night's match)

Vauxhall Conference
(26) Dover v Bromsgrove
(27) Farnborough v Stalybridge
(28) Gateshead v Hednesford
(29) Halifax v Bath
(30) Kidderminster v Altrincham
(31) Macclesfield v Rushden & D
(32) Morecambe v Welling
(33) Slough v Northwich
(34) Stevenage v Kettering
(35) Telford v Hayes
(—) Woking v Southport

Icis League
Premier division
(—) Aylesbury v Greys
(—) Bishop's Stortford v Hendon
(—) Boreham Wood v Carshalton
(36) Enfield v Chertsey
(37) Harrow v Hitchin
(38) Heybridge v Dulwich
(—) Purfleet v Oxford City
(39) Staines v Dagenham and Red
(40) Sutton United v St Albans
(41) Yeading v Bromley
(42) Yeovil v Kingstonian

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v East Ham; Bowers v Stansted; Eton Manor v Great Wakering; Ford United v Basildon U; Hullbridge Sports v Sawbridgeworth; Saffron Walden v Concord Rangers; Southend Manor v Ilford.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Waltham Abbey; Beaconsfield SYCOB v Woodford; Cockfosters v Brook House; Harefield v Barkingside; Haringey v Brimsdown; St Margaretsbury v Hanwell.

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fourth round
(—) Brechin v Raith
(43) Clyde v Kilmarnock
(—) * Falkirk v Dunfermline
(—) Greenock Morton v Dundee
(44) Motherwell v Hamilton
(45) Rangers v East Fife

Bell's Scottish League
First division
(—) Clydebank v St Mirren

Second division
(—) Berwick v Queen of South
(46) Stenhousemuir v Ayr

Third division
(47) Albion v Inverness CT
(48) Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park
(49) East Stirling v Forfar
(—) Montrose v Arbroath
(—) Ross County v Alloa

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Billericay v *Maidenhead United; Bognor Regis v Walton* and Hersham; Canvey Island v Marlow; Chesham v Abingdon Town; Leyton Pennant v Barton Rovers; Molesey v Berkhamsted; Thame v Worthing; Tooting and Mitcham v Basingstoke; Uxbridge v Hampton, Whyteleafe v Aldershot Town; Wokingham v Croydon. Second division: Bedford T v Banstead; Bracknell v Hungerford; Collier Row and Romford v Windsor and Eton; Dorking v *Barking;* Edgware v Chalfont St Peter; Egham v Horsham; Leighton Town v Cheshunt; Metropolitan Police v Tilbury; Ware v *Leatherhead; Wembley v Wivenhoe;* Witham v H Hempstead. Third division: Camberley v Wingate and Finchley; Clapton v Kingsbury; East Thurrock v Wealdstone; Flackwell Heath v Lewes; Harlow v Hornchurch; Hertford v Aveley. Southall v Northwood

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Conwy; Barry v Welshpool; Briton Ferry v Bangor City; Cemaes Bay v Caersws; Cwmbran v Connah's Quay; Flint Town v Ton Pentre, Llansantffraid v Inter Cable-Tel; Newtown v Holywell (2.30); Rhyl v Carmarthen Town.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Selsey; *Hailsham v Three Bridges; Hassocks v* Arundel; Horsham YMCA v Mile Oak, Oakwood v Whitehawk; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Shoreham; Portfield v Langney Sports; Southwick v Saltdean; Wick v Pagham.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harpenden v Potters Bar; Langford v Buckingham Athletic; London Colney v Brache Sparta; Milton Keynes v Letchworth; Royston v Biggleswade; Toddington v Arlesey; Welwyn Garden v Hoddesdon.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v Carterton Town; Bicester Town v Kintbury Rangers; Brackley Town v *Almondsbury Town; Didcot Town v* Burnham; Fairford Town v Wantage Town; Lambourn Sports v Shortwood United; *Tuffley Rovers v Highworth Town.* Premier division Cup: Third round: Swindon Supermarine v Endsleigh.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Chipstead; Bedfont v Hartley Wintney; Cobham v Corinthian-Casuals; Cranleigh v Viking Sports; Feltham v Farnham; Godalming and Guildford v Netherne; Raynes Park Vale v Westfield; Reading Town v Ashford; Sandhurst v Merstham; Walton Casuals v Cove

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: *Barnstaple v Bristol Manor Farm;* Bridgwater v Westbury; Bridport v Calne; Brislington v Bideford; Chippenham v *Tiverton; Mangotsfield v Elmore; Taunton v* Paulton R; Torrington v Backwell.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: *Premier division: Bury Town v Stowmarket;* Clacton v Fakenham; Felixstowe P and T v Diss; Great Yarmouth v Harwich and Parkeston; Sudbury Res v Wroxham; Sudbury v March; Tiptree v Gorleston; Warboys v Lowestoft; Watton v Halstead; Wisbech v Newmarket; Woodbridge Town v Hadleigh U.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Bournemouth; Brockenhurst v Romsey; Downton v Cowes Sports, East Cowes v Lymington; Gosport v Christchurch; Petersfield v Eastleigh; Portsmouth v Andover; Thatcham Town v Bemerton Heath; Whitchurch v Wimborne Town.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v *Lordswood;* Chatham v Faversham; Corinthian v Canterbury; Ramsgate v Crockenhill, Thamesmead v Woolwich; *Whitstable Town v Furness. First* division Cup: Quarter-finals: Deal v Slade Green; Herne Bay v Greenwich, Hythe v Cray; Sheppey v Tunbridge Wells

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v East Barnet OG; NatWest Bank v South Bank; Old Esthameians v Norsemen; Old Parmiterians v Polytechnic.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Cup
Fifth round
* Bradford v Sheffield Wednesday (1.30)
** Leicester v Chelsea (4.10)*

Nationwide League
Third division
Hereford v Cardiff (12.15)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fourth round
Hearts v Dundee Utd (3 15)

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: *Ebbw Vale v Porthmadog.*

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Croydon v Wembley (at Croydon Sports Arena, 2.0).

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday; Blyth Spartans v Garswood St Helens; Stourport v Bradford. Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Berkhamstead; Ipswich v *Oxford Res; Leyton Orient v* Langford; Whitehawk v Three Bridges.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Plate
First round
Bramley v Rochdale (3.0)
Hull KR v Doncaster (3.0)
Hunslet v Huddersfield (3.30)
Lancashire Lynx v Barrow (3 0)
Leigh v Swinton (3.0)
Whitehaven v Batley (3.0)
Widnes v York (2.30)
Workington Town v Dudley Hill (3.0)

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
Fourth division south
Henley v Askeans (2.30)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford *Tigers* v Reading (at Holyhead Leisure Centre, 1.0); Canterbury v Southgate (at Polo Farm, 1.0); Havant v East Grinstead (at Havant College, 2 15); Hounslow v Cannock (at Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, 2.0); Teddington v Guildford (at Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, noon). First division: Beeston v Doncaster (at Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Blueharts v Crostyx (at Hitchin Boys School, 2.0); Bournville v City of Portsmouth (at King *Edward Girls School, Edgbaston,* 2.30); Bromley v Brooklands (at Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0); Hull v St Albans (at Hull Univ, 2 0); Indian Gymkhana v Edgbaston (at Thornbury Avenue, 2.30). Isca v Firebrands (at Exeter School, 1.30); Lewes v Gloucester City (at South Down Club, 1.30); Oxford Hawks v Harleston Magpies (at Banbury Road, 2.0); Oxford University v Warrington (at St Edward's School, 2.0); *Sheffield v Trojans (at Abbeydale Park, 2.0).*

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: England XI v Wales (11.0); England XI v MOP (Holl) (2.0) (at The Stadium, Milton Keynes)

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Midlands: Leics v Northants; Derby v Staffs; Northants v Staffs; Derbys v Warws (at Bedford LC, 11.15). North Lancs v LCL; Man Lge v Cheshire; Cumbria v Shef Lge; Man Lge v *Lancs; LCL v Cumbria; Cheshire v Shef Lge* (at Altrincham, 9.30); Durham v Yorks, Northumberland v Humberside; Durham v Humberside; Yorks v Northumberland (at Morpeth, 9.0). South: Middx v Oxon; Berks v Kent; Sussex v Surrey; Middx v Kent; Berks v Sussex; Surrey v Oxon (at Milton Keynes, 10.30).

CLUB MATCH: Ormskirk v Bowdon.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Birmingham (8.0); Crystal Palace v Manchester (5.0); Leicester v Leopards (7.0). National League: Men: First division: Nottingham v Brixton (6.0); Stockton v *Oxford (4.0); Ware v Cardiff (4 0). Women:* First division: Crystal Palace v London (3.0); Harlesden v Birmingham (4 0); Sheffield v Rhondda (4.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle v Cardiff (6.30); Manchester v Bracknell (6 0): Basingstoke v Nottingham (6.30)

SNOOKER: International Open (in Aberdeen).

VOLLEYBALL: Women's Cup: Semi-final: Guildford v London Malory (2.30).

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Potton; Bourne v Long Buckby; Desborough v Stotfold; Kempston v Eynesbury; Northampton Spencer v *Wootton; Spalding v Ford Sports;* Stamford v Cogenhoe; S and L Corby v Mirrlees Blackstone; Wellingborough v St *Neots. Cup: Second round: Olney v St Ives.*

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Stapenhill; Knypersley V v W Mid *Police; Pelsall V v Chasetown; Rushall O v* Pershore T; Sandwell v Blakenhall; Shifnal T v Hinckley Athletic; Stratford T v Bloxwich *Town; Willenhall v Rocester.*

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Boldmere S v Kings Heath. Premier division: David Lloyd v Alvechurch; Hendrahan Timbers v Coleshill; Highgate v Knowle; Kenilworth v Southam; Massey Ferguson v Coventry Sphinx; Meir KA v Shirley; Richmond Swifts v West Midland Fire Service; Studley BK v Bilston Community College; Wellesbourne v Worcester.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Darlaston; Hill Top R v *Lye Town; Stafford T v Brierley Hill T;* Tividale v Malvern T; Wednesfield v Walsall Wood; Wolverhampton C v Stourport S; *Wolverhampton United v Westfields*

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Salford; Burscough v Glossop North End; Darwen v Bootle; Eastwood H v Chadderton; Holker Old Boys v Blackpool Rovers; Mossley v Kidsgrove; Penrith v St Helens; Prescot Cables v Clitheroe; Rossendale v Nantwich Town; Trafford v Newcastle Town; Vauxhall GM v Maine Road.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Hallam; Belper Town v Ossett Town, Hucknall Town v Glasshoughton Welfare, Liversedge v Ashfield; North Ferriby v Denaby; Ossett Albion v Brigg Town; *Pontefract Cols v Maltby MW; Selby v* Arnold; Sheffield v Pickering; Thackley v Hatfield Main.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v Bedlington Terriers; Consett v Billingham; Dunston Federation v Easington; Durham v South Shields; RTM Newcastle v Crook, Seaham Red Star v Guisborough; Tow Law v Stockton; West Auckland v Whickham, Whitby v Morpeth.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Norwich (11 0), *Chelsea v West Ham (11.0); Gillingham v* Ipswich (11.0), Millwall v Arsenal (11 0), Queens Park Rangers v Leyton Orient (10.45), Tottenham v Charlton (11.0). Postponed: Portsmouth v Southend United. Second division: Barnet v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Bournemouth v Bristol City (11.0); Crystal Palace v Tottenham (11.0); Oxford United v Luton (11 0); Swindon v Southampton (11.0); Wimbledon v Colchester United *(11.0); Wycombe v Reading (11.0)*

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Tranmere.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Cliftonville v Ards; Coleraine v Crusaders; Glentoran v Linfield; Portadown v Glenavon. First division: Ballyclare v Carrick; Bangor v Newry; Distillery v Larne; Omagh v Ballymena.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Derry (7.30); Home Farm v Bray (7.30); Sligo v UCD (7.30)

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove v Brora; Elgin v Nairn County; Forres Mechanics v Clachnacuddin; Fort William v *Huntly; Keith v Peterhead;* Lossiemouth v Deveronvale; Rothes v Wick Academy.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Crouch End Vampires v Old Minchendenians, Lensbury v Witan; Nottsborough v Civil Service, Old Aloysians v West Wickham

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v St Mary's Col. Old Finchleians v Wandsworth Bor; Southgate County v Hale End Ath, Ulysses v Parkfield.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: *Arthur Dunn Cup:* Second-round replay: Salopians v Chigwellians. Premier division: Brentwoods v Cholmeleians; Wykehamists v Foresters

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning OB v Old Meadonians, Clapham OX v Old Tenisonians. Latymer OB v Glyn OB; *Old Hamptonians* v Old Kingsburians, Old Ignatians v Old Vaughanians.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley v Dudley Hill, Egremont v Oldham St Annes; Mayfield v *Leigh Miners, Saddleworth v Woolston;* West Hull v Heworth; Wigan St Patricks v Lock Lane. First division: East Leeds v *Blackbrook; Eastmoor v Askam; Leigh East* v Thornhill; Millom v Barrow Island; Moldgreen v Oulton; Walney Central v Wigan St Judes. Second division: Eccles v York Acorn; New Earswick v Featherstone Amateur; Ovenden v Milford; Redhill v Dewsbury Moor; Shaw Cross v Normanton; Skirlaugh v Hull Dockers.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Five nations' championship
France v Wales
(at Parc des Princes, 2.0)
Ireland v England
(at Lansdowne Road, 3.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
Third division
Exeter v Leeds (1.30)
Harrogate v Walsall (2.15)
Havant v Fylde (1.0)
Liverpool St Helens v Clifton
Otley v Morley (2.15)
Reading v Redruth (1.30)
Rosslyn Park v Lydney
Wharfedale v London Welsh (2.15)

Fourth division north
Birmingham/Solihull v Manchester
Kendal v Worcester
Lichfield v Stoke-on-Trent
Preston G v Nuneaton (3 0)
Sandal v Sheffield (2.15)
Stourbridge v Hereford
Winnington Park v Aspatria

Fourth division south
Berry Hill v High Wycombe
Charlton Park v North Walsham
Cheltenham v Tabard
Metropolitan Police v Plymouth (3.0)
Newbury v Barking (3 0)
Weston-super-Mare v Camberley (3.0)

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham v Bridgwater; Gloucester OB v Stroud; Maidenhead v St Ives; Matson v Barnstaple. Salisbury v Launceston; Torquay v Camborne

LONDON: First division: Esher v Thurrock; Norwich v *Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Ruislip v* Guildford and Godalming; Southend v Old Colfeians; Staines v Harlow; Sudbury v *Basingstoke; Sutton and Epsom v* Wimbledon.

MIDLANDS: First division: Leamington v *Derby; Leighton Buzzard v Camp Hill,* Mansfield v Burton; Scunthorpe v Broad Street; Stafford v Belgrave; Stockwood Park v Barkers Butts; Syston v Wolverhampton; Westleigh v Whitchurch

NORTH: First division: Bradford and Bingley v Broughton Park; Hull Ionians v Macclesfield; Sedgley Park v Bridlington; Tynedale v New Brighton; West Park Bramhope v Widnes; Wigton v Stockton

Anglo-Welsh competition
Group A
Blackheath v Cross Keys (1.0)
Waterloo v Pontypool (2.15)

Group B
Coventry v Blackwood (12.0)

Group C
Aberavon v Nottingham

Group D
London Scottish v Bonymaen (3.0)
Rotherham v Llandovery (2.15)
Ystradgynlais v Rugby

Tennents Premiership
First division
Currie v Hawick (3 0)
Jed-Forest v Boroughmuir (3.0)
Melrose v Heriot's FP (3.0)
Watsonians v Stirling County (3.0)

Second division
Edinburgh Acads v
Glasgow Acads (3.0)
Glasgow HK v Biggar (3.0)
Gala v West of Scotland (3.0)
Kelso v Dundee HSFP (3 0)

Third division
Kilmarnock v Glasgow Southern (3 0)
Musselburgh v Selkirk (3 0)
Peebles v Kirkcaldy (3 0)
Stewart's Mel FP v Preston Lodge (3 0)

Fourth division
Glenrothes v Grangemouth (3 0)
Haddington v Gordonians (3 0)
Hillhead/Jordanhill v Ayr (3 0)
Langholm v Corstorphine (3.0)

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Beckenham, Chichester v Tunbridge Wells, Gore Court v Fareham; High Wycombe v Ramgarhia; Maidenhead v Wimbledon; Old Kingstonians v Richmond; Old Whitgiftians v Winchester, Spencer v Hampstead/Westminster; Woking v Ashford; Wokingham v Bournemouth. *Hampshire/Surrey: Camberley v Barnes; Portsmouth* v Epsom; Oxted v Southampton; Old Cranleighans v Andover, Goan v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Blandford v London University; Petersfield v Basingstoke; Cheam v Oxshott; Old Walcountians v Purley. Kent/Sussex: Ashford v Middleton; Bexleyheath v Old Holcombeians; Bexley Invicta v Marden Russets; Blackheath v Old Bordenians; Bognor v Eastbourne; Brighton v Horsham; Herne Bay v *Belvedere; Lloyds* Bank v Mid Sussex; Tulse Hill v Sevenoaks; Worthing v *Old Williamsonians.* Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon. Amersham v OMT, Bracknell v Lions. City of Oxford v *Milton Keynes; Eastcote v Mill Hill, Gerrards* Cross v West Hampstead. Harrow v Hayes. Headington v PHC Chiswick; Newbury v *Richings Park, Staines v Farnham Common;* Sunbury v Marlow

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: *Premier division: Hampton-in-*Arden v Blossomfield, Harborne v Coventry and North Warwickshire; North Notts v *Khalsa; Nottingham v Loughborough Students;* Olton and West Warwickshire v Bloxwich

NORTHERN LEAGUE: *First division:* Chester v Ben Rhydding, Norton v Neston, Ramgarhia v Harrogate, Sheffield Bankers v Springfields. Southport v Swalwell; Timperley v Formby.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Chelmsford v Dereham; Colchester v Bishop's Stortford; Ipswich v Cambridge University; Peterborough Town v Cambridge City. Redbridge and Ilford v Sudbury. Premier division B: Bedford Town v Romford; Bury St Edmunds v Norwich City: Ipswich and East Suffolk v Huntingdon; Luton Town v Westcliff; Old Southendian v Clacton.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: England XI v England under-21 (2.30); England XI v Wales (4 30) (at The Stadium, Milton Keynes).

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Man Lge v LCL: Lancs v Cheshire; LCL v Shef Lge, Cumbria v Man Lge (at Altrincham, 9.30), Northumberland v Durham; Yorks v Humberside (at Morpeth 10.30)

WEST LEAGUE: Bournemouth v Cheltenham, Colwall v Redland; Wimborne v St Austell; Yate v Leominster

CLUB MATCHES: Aldridge v Chester. Bracknell v Exmouth, Chelmsford v Ealing; *Clifton v Cardiff Ath. Copdock v Cambs C;* Hampton v Rover Cowley; Liverpool v Crosby; Molesey OS v Pickwick. Newport v *St Fagans. Northampton v Bedford; Old* Loughtonians v Canterbury; Tulse Hill v Sevenoaks; West Witney v Reading. *Winnington Pk v Colwyn Bay*

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v London (7 30); Newcastle v Sheffield (7.30). Hemel and Watford v Leicester (7 30); Thames Valley v Chester (8.0) Worthing v Crystal Palace (8 0) National League: Men: First division: Bury and Bolton v Brixton (7 30); Coventry v Solent (7 30). Plymouth v Liverpool (7 30). Westminster v Nottingham (8 0) Women: *First division: Barking and Dagenham v* Ipswich (8 0). Crystal Palace v Northampton (6 0). London v Nottingham (6 0): Rhondda v *Spelthorne (6.30); Thames Valley v* Sheffield (5 45)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr v Cardiff *(8 0). Nottingham v Manchester (7 0):* Sheffield v Newcastle (7 0). Bracknell v Basingstoke (6 0).

LACROSSE: *Shepherds Friendly Society* League: Premier division: Stockport v Cheadle Hulme; Boardman and Eccles v Heaton Mersey; Timperley v Old Waconians; Hulmeians v Cheadle Mellor v Moorthorpe

SNOOKER: International Open (in Aberdeen).

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: *First division:* Reebok Liverpool City v Polonia Ealing (5 30): Leeds v Sportsset Whitefield (4 0): Crofton Sportswearhouse v Warwick Riga (3 0), City of Stoke v Tooting Aquila (6 30). Wessex v Malory Lewsham (6.30) Women's Cup: Semi-final: Manchester United Salford v Britannia Music City (4.30)

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WEEKEND'S F.A. CUP ACTION

HOME		DRAW		AWAY
4-5	Birmingham	2-1	Wrexham	7-2
4-6	Blackburn	11-5	Coventry	4-1
13-5	Bradford (S)	2-1	Sheff. Weds.	Evs
7-2	Chesterfield	15-8	Nott'm For.	5-6
8-13	Leeds	11-5	Portsmouth	9-2
9-4	Leicester (B)	15-8	Chelsea	6-5
7-4	Man. City	15-8	Middlesbro'	6-4
4-7	Wimbledon	11-5	Q.P.R.	5-1

Singles and upwards accepted.
S – Playing Sunday, Live on Sky. B – Playing Sunday, Live on BBC TV.
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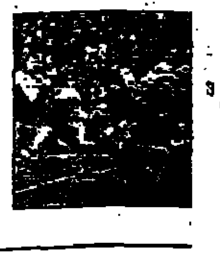
TENNIS 48

Wrist injury returns to haunt Becker

SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE 49

Cup brawl earns St Helens and Wigan record fines



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

England steeled for aerial onslaught from spirited and familiar foes

Elwood heightens Irish expectancy

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

ENGLAND, Jack Rowell said this week, want to "absorb and impose" against Ireland at Lansdowne Road here today. *Nobody is in any doubt* that the wave of English visitors to the Irish capital for the third leg of the five nations' championship will absorb in great quantities, but imposition is something their team will find more difficult.

It is far too easily forgotten how immature this England team is in key areas, such as *half back and full back, nor* how well Ireland are coming to know them now that nine of the team play in the Courage Clubs Championship. This is not so much a case of familiarity breeding contempt, but the opportunity for a more accurate assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of individuals under pressure.

Not that Brian Ashton, the Ireland technical advisor, will have needed, for example, a profile from Nick Popplewell and Ross Nesdale on their Newcastle colleagues, Tim Stimpson and Tony Underwood. *Ashton has seen the* videos for himself, he knows the accuracy of Eric Elwood's boot and England's back three defenders can expect to be peppered with high kicks during the Irish Permanent international this afternoon.

It was Elwood whose soaring garryowen in Cardiff a fortnight ago descended not *only on Neil Jenkins, but also* on the Wales posts, the padding on which helped to baffle Jenkins and earn a try for Jonathan Bell. Ashton awarded his stand-off half only seven out of ten for execution of a *ploy drawn directly from rug*by league — "If he'd hit the crossbar, I'd have given him the full ten," Ashton said. Peter Sterling did it for the Australia rugby league teams of the early 1980s and St Helens garnered three tries from the same tactic in the Challenge Cup final against Bradford Bulls last season.

That is what Ashton describes as planned rugby. There is no more Irish a ploy than the garryowen, but it is where it is used that matters and England know only too well that the former Bath *coach will have massaged the* Ireland approach to maximum effect. Yet if Elwood, the calming, slightly un-Irish stand-off, can be hedged around, as Gregor Townsend *was at Twickenham during* Scotland's subsidence, then England's game may prosper.

When Rowell, the England coach, *talks of absorbtion*, it is not only Irish passion and fury that he means. He wants his big forwards to soak up whatever Nesdale, Jeremy Davidson and Eric Miller can hurl at them, he wants to *dominate the set-pieces in* traditional English style and give Ireland no loose ball to play with, as England did so well when playing into a gale here two years ago, when the ball was hardly controllable.

If, at the same time, Richard Hill can again work from the open-side flank to such good effect, then the pressure will *return on the Ireland back* division, which cracked badly against France in the final quarter last month. The main difference between then and now is the presence of Jim Staples, which offered Ireland so valuable an attacking option in Cardiff, as it has done for Harlequins this season. The full back's appreciation of when to *run and* when to kick is the hallmark of a talented footballer whose long-term value has been eroded only by injury.

It would be idle to pretend that one victory, by the small*est possible margin,* has turned Ireland into a dominant force, but it has given them a belief that was apparently absent earlier this season. Nor is there any doubt that the arrival of England in particular will motivate Ireland that little bit more, though Ashton will look to see *that his players sustain the* variations in their play that he has introduced.

Already, Ashton has seen an advance in Irish ambitions — backs looking to run possession into space, forwards giv*ing Hogan early ball at lineout* and ruck. "Players are starting to think on their feet but there's still a long way to go," he said. For the moment, he is *content to have erased the* formulaic "game-plan" approach — which he perceives as an insult to talented players — and given them greater freedom in which to operate.

"The start of any game tends to be a bit frenetic, it takes time to settle down," Rowell said, and of nowhere is that more true than Dublin. Yet opportunity can beckon early, as it did for England a couple of times against Scotland, and it takes speed of *thought and speed of limb to* grasp it.

Some doubt remains whether England have enough of either. Will Carling was criticised for retaining possession after breaks had been made against Scotland, but the inability of his colleagues to support properly contributed to the demise of such moves, while not for two seasons have England been able to engage their full back systematically as an attacking weapon, though that is what Mike Catt, and now Stimpson, were picked to do.

Stimpson had one early and effective run against Scotland, but thereafter had to make do with whatever Scotland, rather than his own team, gave him. "There is no specific reason for a failure to bring *the full back into the line," Phil* de Glanville, the captain, said. "It relies on the attitude of the players and the type of ball you are getting."

It also relies on the understanding and footballing skills of those around the full back, more often than not his wings, and England's litany of defensive howlers has a long and undistinguished history. Nevertheless, there seems little justification for the short odds being offered here yesterday — a sunny, windless day — on an Irish victory, which has been achieved only once in the past *ten years. If England's tight* forwards can absorb the initial onslaught, they are as well equipped to win here as anyone.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	41	13	2
France	1	1	0	0	32	15	2
Wales	2	1	0	1	59	45	2
Ireland	2	1	0	1	41	57	2
Scotland	2	0	0	2	32	75	0

RESULTS: Ireland 15 France 32; Scotland 19 Wales 34; England 41 Scotland 13; Wales 25 Ireland 26.

MATCHES TO COME: Today: France v Wales; Ireland v England. March 1: England v France; Scotland v Ireland. March 15: France v Scotland; Wales v England.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

IRELAND		ENGLAND
J E Staples (Harlequins)*	15	T R G Stimpson (Newcastle)
D A Hickie (St Mary's College)	14	J M Sleightholme (Bath)
J C Bell (Northampton)	13	W D C Carling (Harlequins)
M J Field (Malone)	12	P R de Glanville (Bath)*
J A Topping (Ballymena)	11	T Underwood (Newcastle)
E P Elwood (Lansdowne)	10	P J Grayson (Northampton)
N A Hogan (Terenure College)	9	A C T Gomarsall (Wasps)
N J Popplewell (Newcastle)	1	G C Rowntree (Leicester)
R P Nesdale (Newcastle)	2	M P Regan (Bristol)
P S Wallace (Saracens)	3	J Leonard (Harlequins)
D S Corkery (Bristol)	6	L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)
P S Johns (Saracens)	4	M O Johnson (Leicester)
J W Davidson (London Irish)	5	S D Shaw (Bristol)
W D McBride (Malone)	7	R A Hill (Saracens)
E R P Miller (Leicester)	8	T A K Rodber (North'ton/Army)

Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand)

BBC1: *from 2.25* — * *captain*

REPLACEMENTS (Ireland): 16 D G Humphreys (London Irish), 17 B T O'Meara (Cork Con), 18 G M Fulcher (London Irish), 19 P Flavin (Blackrock Coll), 20 A T H Clarke (Northampton), 21 A G Foley (Shannon).

REPLACEMENTS (England): 16 J C Guscott (Bath), 17 M J Catt (Bath), 18 A Healey (Leicester), 19 D J Garforth (Leicester), 20 R Cockerill (Leicester), 21 B B Clarke (Richmond).

Voices raised, page 1
Wales discounted, page 48
Shaw turns tide, page 48

Johnson rises to the challenge during England's training session yesterday

Redknapp goes for broke on £5 million Hartson

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT IS perhaps a sad indictment of the hyperflated British transfer market, as well as a stark reflection of the state of near panic at Upton Park, that West Ham United should yesterday pay a club record fee of £5 million for John Hartson, the Arsenal forward. He will make his debut this afternoon alongside Paul Kitson, the former Newcastle United striker, who cost £2.3 million last week, in the FA Carling Premiership match away to Derby County.

The purchasing record of Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, has not proved too successful in recent seasons, especially when buying from abroad; thus, it was no surprise that Redknapp has concentrated his latest efforts nearer home.

However, the credentials of Hartson, 21, who has signed a five-year contract, and Kitson, 26, do not bear the closest of scrutiny, particularly with West Ham struggling in eighteenth place in the Premiership. Hartson, though a Wales international, has scored only four goals in 26 appearances for Arsenal this season and only once since September. His disciplinary problems are rather more notable: he has been sent off once and booked 12 times, missing five matches because of suspension.

Hartson: five-year contract

Redknapp cannot afford to get it wrong again. "We now have two young strikers at the club and they can benefit West Ham not only this season, but also in the long term," he said.

Hartson said: "West Ham has a great future and I want to be part of it. I'm sure we can stay in the Premier League and it's down to me to get the goals to make it happen."

Ronnie Whelan, the Southend United manager, has been *reinstated, four days* after being suspended by the Nationwide League first division club. He still faces a misconduct charge from the Football Association after he was banished from the touchline during the game *against* Manchester City last Saturday, the incident that led to his suspension. Theo Foley, *his assistant*, who was *also* ordered from the touchline at Maine Road, was dismissed by the club.

Bolton Wanderers and Wolverhampton Wanderers have been charged by the FA after a *flare-up involving numerous* players from each side marred their first division game at Burnden Park last month.

Liverpool have formed an "alliance" with Crewe Alexandra, the second division club, designed to enhance the development of young players. A Liverpool spokesman said: "It *will* offer *mutual benefits*, despite the differences in stature, size and likely future development of the two parties."

Premiership guide, page 50
Gallacher's revival, page 51

Croft prevents Atherton's gamble from going awry

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN CHRISTCHURCH

CHRISTCHURCH (first day of five, England won toss): New Zealand have scored 229 for five wickets against England

ALL the old maxims about never putting a team in to bat were recited for Michael *Atherton's benefit in Auckland* last month. He ignored them then and came within one ball of a win to vindicate his judgment. He ignored them again yesterday, found the Lancaster Park pitch in league with the sceptics, yet still emerged with dignity and hope intact.

If Atherton was mistaken in his tactics, it was in the anticipation, shared by most of his team, that a green surface would behave as sus*piciously as its appearance* suggested. In Christchurch, this is seldom the case and the only factors preventing New Zealand finishing the day in control were their own lack of confidence and the discipline *of the English bowling*.

It can be argued, however, that the insertion was negative and counter-productive, that its provocation was to deny New Zealand their preferred route and its effect was to surrender an opportunity to put the series beyond doubt with an imposing first-innings total. Only the end result can now dismiss such a charge.

Having failed to bowl out New Zealand inside a day, England certainly made life harder than it needed to be. Essentially, they volunteered *to bat under more pressure* when their turn came. The consolation is the knowledge that this pitch contains few *evils — certainly*, far fewer than Atherton feared, and his opposite number hoped, when they reported for duty.

Croft: three-wicket haul

A draw is not enough for New Zealand. They must win here to salvage a shared series and redeem some of the damage their reputations have suffered in the past week, so the sight of a covering of live *grass on the pitch* was far more welcome to their eyes than to England's, as they had named four pace bowlers.

Stephen Fleming, leading New Zealand for the first time, admitted: "The pitch really didn't do very much. We're happy to have lost only five wickets, but it is now down to us to get the ball in the right channels a bit more than England did."

Fleming's promotion was one intriguing result of a groin *injury that discounted Lee* Germon. Only two years ago, Fleming was suspended from three one-day internationals as one of three New Zealand players found smoking cannabis on a tour of South Africa. *The other two*, Dion Nash and Matthew Hart, have vanished from the international scene, but Fleming is one of few New Zealanders at present with the talent and charisma to make a *lasting impression*.

Similiar things have been said of Adam Parore, but, on Monday, he was dropped. Germon's absence also brought his reprieve, however, and in his original role as wicketkeeper-batsman. It was ironic indeed that, come the close, he was batting stoically with the another problem *child*, Chris Cairns.

A confusing sequence of events was completed by Matt Horne. His debut, at No 3, came about *through* Parore's demotion and he batted with great assurance to make 42, decorated by emphatic front-foot driving. It was only after his dismissal that he felt the full effects of a blow on the left hand from Darren Gough, submitted to an X-ray and discovered he had broken a bone.

England, *who had the plea*sure of naming an unchanged team for the first time in 33 Tests, were not deflected by deceptive conditions and they must already be grateful. The two spinners, Robert Croft and Philip Tufnell, *shared* 40 overs on the first day, conceding only 71 runs, and will have much more to do before the game is out. Croft was the principal wicket-taker with *three, another thing that* would not have been predicted before play began, but the belief that the seamers would dominate was disproved long before lunch, by which time Dominic Cork had bowled an eccentric, expensive spell, compensated only by the wicket of Bryan Young, who was bowled playing across a rare *straight one*.

Gough, this time, had no immediate answers when Atherton threw him the ball and it *was not until 20 minutes* before lunch that England tasted further success. Blair Pocock fell into a pre-determined trap, failing to get to the pitch of a flighted ball from Croft and driving to Atherton positioned at short mid-on.

Croft's bowling now showed the benefits of selectorial confidence, his natural control *augmented by a range of* attacking experiments. With Gough bowling a bristling spell from the other end, *England* were *briefly in the* ascendancy and it was no surprise when Horne, his footwork deserting him, steered Gough to slip.

Nathan Astle, cutting at a ball of inappropriate length, was sharply caught at slip by Hussain off Croft, but that was England's last wicket for almost two hours as Fleming *and Parore put together* a battling stand of 64.

They were parted when Fleming's concentration span, the greatest enemy of his career, let him down again. Charging feverishly at Croft, he was stumped by Stewart, leaving Cairns to survive with difficulty as Caddick gained some extravagant bounce with the *new* ball. *New Zealand's* tail is long and one more wicket would have brought a smile of satisfaction to Atherton's face; as it was, he had a night to fret over the wisdom of scorning convention once more.

☐Paul Strang, the Zimbabwean leg spinner, will be Kent's overseas player this summer. Strang, 26, replaces Carl Hooper, who will be required by the West Indies until mid-June.

England won toss

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young b Cork (9min, 11 balls, 2 fours)	11
B A Pocock c Atherton b Croft (96min, 65 balls, 1 four)	22
M J Horne c Thorpe b Gough (*153min, 124 balls, 4 fours*)	42
*S P Fleming st Stewart b Croft (218min, 167 balls, 6 fours)	62
N J Astle c Hussain b Croft (37min, 23 balls, 1 four)	15
†*A C Parore not out* (152min, 131 balls, 1 six, 1 four)	38
C L Cairns not out (48min, 36 balls, 1 four)	10
Extras (b 1, lb 13, nb 15)	29
Total (5 wkts, 90 overs, 385min)	229

S B Doull, G I Allott, D L Vettori and H T Davis to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Pocock 1), 2-78 (Horne 30), 3-106 (Fleming 11), 4-137 (Fleming 25), 5-201 (Parore 25).

BOWLING: Cork 15-3-67-1 (nb 12; 7 fours; 6-1-33-1, 6-2-20-0, 3-0-14-0); Caddick 18-4-33-0 (nb 1; 2 fours; 5-2-5-0, 5-2-8-0, 3-0-8-0, 2-0-5-0, 3-0-7-0); Gough 16-3-44-1 (nb 3; 3 fours; 3-0-13-0, 10-3-19-1, 3-0-12-0); Croft 24-4-49-3 (nb 1; 1 six, 3 fours; 6-1-12-1, 8-1-18-1, 3-1-9-0, 7-1-10-1); Tufnell 16-6-22-0 (1 four; 10-4-14-0, 6-2-8-0); Thorpe 1-1-0-0.

SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch: 85-2 (28 overs, 121min; Horne 31, Fleming 2). Tea: 160-4 (57 overs, 241min; Fleming 38, Parore 9). Second *new ball: 207-5 (84 overs) at 5.07pm.*

ENGLAND: N V Knight, *M A Atherton, †A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D G Cork, D Gough, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell.

Umpires: R S Dunne and D B Hair (Australia). Third umpire: D M Quested.

Match referee: P J P Burge (Australia).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Auckland): Match drawn. Second Test (Wellington): England won by an innings and 68 runs.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

JOHN ANGERSON

Robert Crampton, writer and nervous substitute, wedged between two Homerton Academicals, heads by car for the football stadium . . . or rather Paddington rec, where the team change into their kit and discuss tactics. After a few loosening-up exercises, watched by a young fan, the Ackies take on the might of Brixton Munchen Gladbach under the critical eye of their co-founders. But why worry? The team triumphs 7-2, the ideal excuse for a celebration pint

When Sunday comes

Every weekend thousands of would-be Cantonas battle for minor league glory at the local rec. Substitute **Robert Crampton** bribed his way on to the pitch

A delicate business this, gatecrashing another man's team. I first mentioned it to Joe in his kitchen three weeks ago. I said: "Joe, they've asked me to write about Sunday league football, why tens of thousands of people do it, more and more teams each season, and so on." Joe nodded and beamed. I said: "Joe, there's a snag." He frowned. I said: "It's a bit tricky." He said: "They want you to *play*? For the *Ackies*?" I said: "That's right." He frowned some more. He said: "The thing is, we're doing really well this season."

I said: "I know, Joe, you have told me." He said: "There's other blokes waiting to get a game." I said: "I know, I know, but what can I do? Either I get to play, or it's off." I added, in what felt shamefully close to an abuse of power: "The pictures will look nice." He said: "Look, I'll have to ask the other lads." I said: "Fine."

And, when Joe Bond, 36, solicitor and striker, put it to them, the other members of Homerton Academicals Football Club, they said fine, too. They play in something called the *London Relegation League* — nine teams, 16 games a season plus a rather truncated cup competition. It is all very civilised. Many players end up in the LRL because they are fed up with, as Tom Findlay, 24, PR man and left wing, put it, "horrible beer monsters" kicking them in other leagues. The LRL motto is *Aequi simus, juvenus!*, or "Let's be reasonable, boys!" And the boys *were* reasonable.

I play six-a-side with some of them, so they knew I wasn't going to be an embarrassment, but even so, I was and am aware that it was the promise of their own extended, illustrated match report in *The Times* rather my any ability of mine that lured them. As my fellow substitute Mickey Daniel, 26, artist and full back, would later tell me as we warmed up: "There's a little bit of fantasy involved in all this, there's kits, and pads and cups and shields and refs, and that's good."

Substitute? Indeed. That was the deal brokered between me, my friend Joe and the triumvirate who run the club. They are: Phil, manager (knackered his cruciate ligament in '93, now picks the team); Gus, co-founder, in 1987, and now sort of club captain (does most of the admin, still good for 20 minutes second half); and Kier, captain, midfield engine, motivator, chief scout, alpha male.

Provided they were sufficiently far ahead against Brixton Munchen Gladbach after an hour, they said, then I could come on and play 30 minutes. (I play up front, and so does Joe. He knew it would be him that came off, but he was willing to make the supreme sacrifice.)

However, if — perish the thought — the Ackies were struggling, I would not get a game. Not to worry, said Joe: when the Ackies met BMG earlier in the season they won 15 *(fifteen)*-1, although, admittedly, Brixton had turned up with only eight players, and many of them, as Nick Miller, their captain, told me later in the pub, had been in a poor state from the night before.

So it is in high spirits that we gather at Joe's house in the shadow of Highbury stadium, Islington, north London, on Sunday morning. Joe puts on his video of the Ackie's cup triumph in 1995 — their single honour to date — a triumph in which he scored twice. To eyes attuned to the Premiership, the ball and the players who chase it seem to move in slow motion, like spacemen undergoing zero gravity training.

Suspicious flickers and wavy lines on the screen lead to the accusation that Joe has been overdoing the action replays, an accusation which he denies only half-heartedly. He has already owned up to recording every goal he has scored in his 15-year, post-university career in a "little black notebook".

We leave around 11. Me, Joe and John Feeney are in the back of Kier Starmer's Saab, heading for the Astroturf at Paddington rec. John Feeney is wearing an Italy shirt with Maldini on the back. John, 24, a barman and student, is the talented midfield maverick. Every team has one.

To be a talented maverick you have, usually, to be skilful, and yet underperform — for reasons usually connected to your weight and/or fitness, which are, in turn, connected to your lifestyle. This season, however, John is undergoing a Paul Merson-esque transformation.

"I was sub a lot last season and frustrated, so I made a hell of an effort." What did you do? "I stopped eating so much. The midnight kebabs went. I was 16 stone. Now I'm just over 14, and I haven't smoked all year. I wanted to be more part of it."

At the wheel, Kier Starmer, 34, barrister, admits that he has been captain of every football team he's ever played in, from primary school onwards. He plays at least four times a week. "I just love playing football. I love it." He also says: "I hate losing under any circumstances." Whenever Kier comes up against a decent player, he moves in and attempts ruthlessly to poach him for the Ackies. Both Joe and John arrived in this fashion.

"I met these guys on a stag weekend in Leicester in 1995," says John Feeney. "We played football and afterwards, apparently, Gus was saying, 'We must get John on his own 'cos we want him to join the Ackies but his mate isn't very good,' trying to be all subtle. So Kier leans over and says, 'So, John, fancy playing for the Ackies?' My mate's face! Now, he can't stand Kier, but there's no

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING [illegible] RY LIFE ..... 6 | PROPERTY ..... 7,8 | FEATURES ..... 10 | HOME LIFE ..... 11 | TRAVEL ..... 15-21 | GAMES 25

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SERIOUS SHOPPING QVC CHANNEL

GILES COREN

Ever *since its inception*, QVC, Britain's first television shopping channel, has been mocked. It looks cheap and tacky, people complain. Presenters who know nothing at all about their subject promote useless tat, and the very lowest form of *American gutless consumerism* is being inflicted on the nation.

Have these smug critics never watched satellite television? It is *supposed* to be like that. The sports presenters know nothing about sport and are there only to promote the next night's pay-per-*view boxing extravaganza*. The news people spend all day with a finger in an ear looking slightly off camera in a pleading way, and most of the people on Live TV can't even speak. So what a joy it is to flick to QVC and absorb those rare *Reithian* values: Quality, Value and Convenience. For a nation of shopkeepers, what could be better than keeping a shop in the corner of the sitting room?

Why, only last week I took the advice of a balding little chap who told me to, "chuck out those crusty old cooking pots, forget that old oven, and buy this 98-piece pile of plastic bits and pieces instead". It was fantastic: you could roast a huge joint in only 40 minutes, and get that authentic brown colour, or do baked potatoes in just ten minutes without all that confusing heat getting in the way. So out went the Le Creuset and in came my wonderful microwave set, *which cost almost nothing*, plus p&p. Now everything I cook tastes like porridge, so I don't have to bother with all those complicated things like ingredients and seasoning. So convenient.

Last night, while watching a great show called *In the Kitchen with Tefal*, I bought a Tefal Silhouette Five-piece Pan Set for only £40, plus £4.45 p&p. The pots were so non-stick, the food expert said, that you could make an omelette without using oil or butter, so it was ideal for people on low-fat diets. Excellent, I thought, *you just slap five eggs into the pan*, grate in some cheddar as the expert did (using a Tefal multi-purpose grater £9.95 — on QVC there are always better ways to slice, dice and grate), and hey presto! A delicious low-fat meal.

You can watch flower-arranging *with Robert de Something*, and then call in for the Floral Design Vase Set (£36). The presenter didn't actually instruct me to buy, on this occasion, he just said: "My sister does a lot of flower arranging, she finds it very therapeutic", and "if you're looking for a gift for Mother's Day. . ."

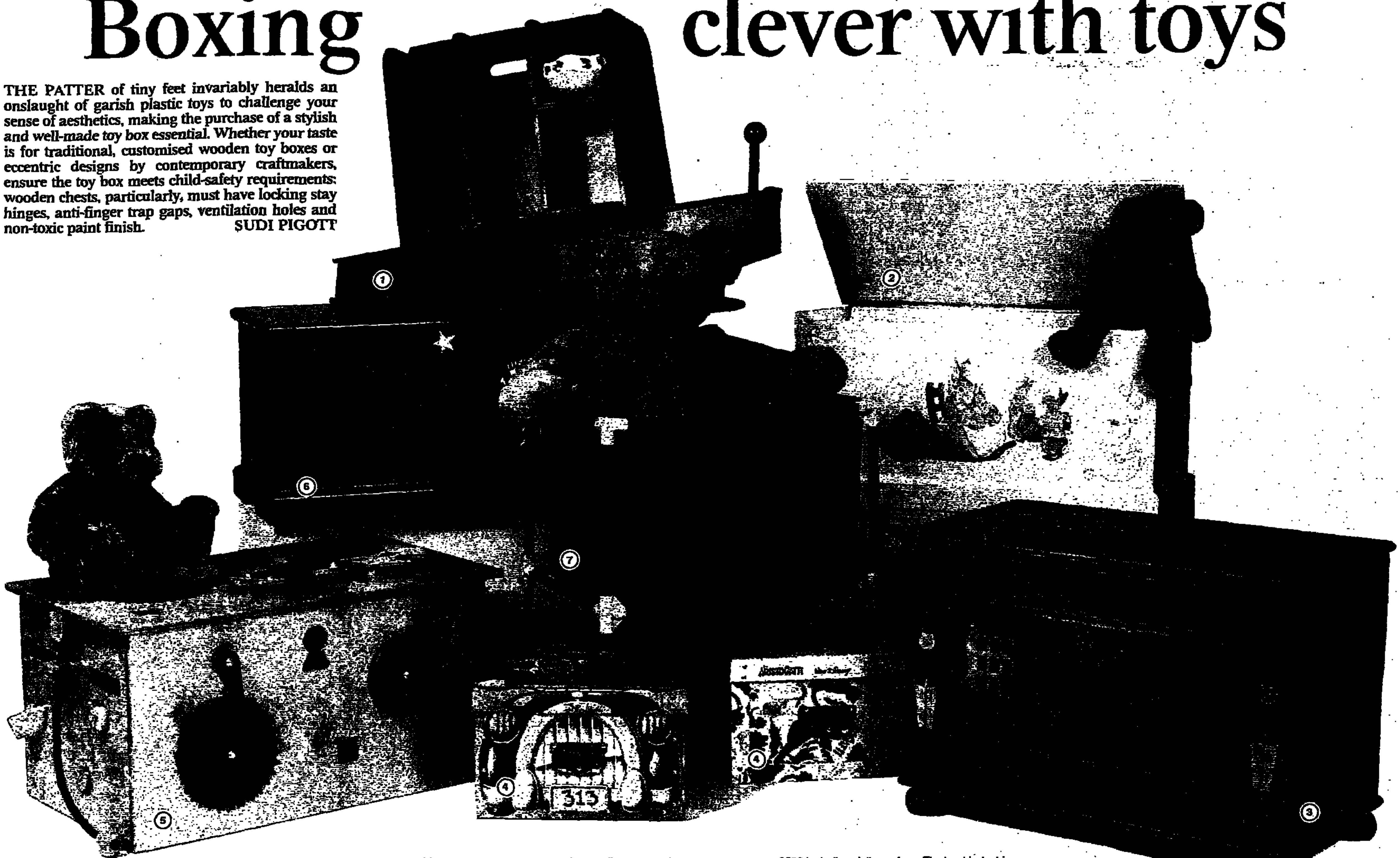
Too late, I had already bought my mother a Doctor Marten's Watch (£32.50): "Hey, *look at this* yellow stitching and the convenient buckle. And you're saying that these will be in fashion for as long as Doctor Marten's boots are in fashion?" Best of all though, the presenter pointed out that it had a second hand, a minute hand, and, *an hour hand*, "which is really useful". He even turned its back to camera and said: "Look, you've got a stainless steel back, there", which was a relief, because I was worried that all the cogs and springs might fall out if they forgot *to put* a back on the watch.

And so it goes on. Quality, Value, Convenience. But I am going to have to have *a rest* from QVC soon, because I am now in danger in buying things twice — I already have two "Soft Touch" belted cardigans from Honey (£16.75) *which* feel like cashmere but are actually acrylic and cost a fraction of the price, and if I buy one more Nautical Body *Vibes* Leisure Suit (£34) I fear my girlfriend may brain me with the Hermle Filigree Face Anniversary Clock (£50 — special "premiere" price) — or, worse still, my Crystal Swan Anniversary Clock (£65.75), which really would be sad, because *it has a little swan for a* pendulum, and the presenter *played Swan Lake* while he was showing it off, and said: "This is a thing of beauty but it's a joy for ever because *it will actually never* outlive its usefulness and can be a heirloom for later on."

With QVC, I have seen "the Beauty of Blue Topaz", and become a collector of Elvis watches ("the King lives on in these fashionable time-pieces"), but I fear I will never stay up long enough *to see Fragrances by Ivana* at 4am, because when you wake up in the morning and flick on the telly before work to see an entirely new presenter *turning* exactly the same banana cake out of a Tefal baking dish as her colleague did only six hours before you *know that you* have been spending too much time in front of the shops.

Boxing clever with toys

THE PATTER of tiny feet invariably heralds an onslaught of garish plastic toys to challenge your sense of aesthetics, making the purchase of a stylish and well-made toy box essential. Whether your taste is for traditional, customised wooden toy boxes or eccentric designs by contemporary craftmakers, ensure the toy box meets child-safety requirements: wooden chests, particularly, must have locking stay hinges, anti-finger trap gaps, ventilation holes and non-toxic paint finish. SUDI PIGOTT



1 Poppy-red, wooden, snail-shaped double-sided book/toy storage unit, with a reading seat and secret compartment, £239 including delivery, from Elephant Industries (0181-850 6875). **2** Pine toy box in hand-painted Beatrix Potter design, £305.50-£452.38, from Dragons, 23 Walton Street, London SW3 2HX (0171-589 3795). **3** Hand-made *solid pine toy box with hand-painted and stencilled Victorian nursery design, £285-£467 from Billie Bond Designs (01245 360164).* **4** Donald Duck or Aristocat cartoon reinforced cardboard toy boxes, £12.95, from the Holding Company, 243-245 King's Road, SW3 5EL (0171-352 1600, mail order 0171-610 9160). **5** Handmade limited edition birch-ply puzzle toy box, with colour-matching, shape-sorting number dials and the like, £325 (post-Christmas special offer, £299 including delivery), from Woodpecker Toys (01325 377265). **6** Safari-design painted wooden toy box, £125, from the Pier, 91-95 King's Road, SW3 4PA (0171-351 7100). **7** Portable toy box made from colourful cotton twill rolls on double-castors, £29.99, plus £3.95 p&p, from Baby Basics (mail order 01993 770607). Teddy bear on left, £30.55, from Dragons, as above. Large teddy £79.99, and small teddy £19.99, both from Hamleys, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 3161). Photograph: **Des Jenson.** Styling: **Caroline Griffiths**

Just £10 sends the gift of sight

Malati Barik had the harrowing experience of watching her mother go blind in her old age, and she was terrified that history was about to repeat itself when her own eyes began to cloud over. Thankfully she came to a Sight Savers' eye hospital where surgeons carried out a simple cataract operation.

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'You don't get slagged for lack of skill, only effort'

Continued from page 1

resentment towards me." "I don't believe in buggering around," Kier says. "I thought, 'if that guy loses some weight he could be quite a player'."

"Kier brings in a lot of *players, but not ones who* might replace him," says Joe.

"This team would be a bunch of old elephants without my recruiting," says Kier, which is harsh, but almost certainly fair.

We arrive at the rec. I talk to Phil Watson, 36, charity administrator, former stalwart, now manager. I ask about his career-ending injury. "I didn't mind too much," he says. "Football turns a lot of people into gits, and I used to get a red mist sometimes when I played."

Phil gives a team talk in the dressing room. The atmosphere changes as denim and leather give way to royal blue nylon and shin pads. There is no laddish irony. Vaseline is smeared on knees to alleviate friction burns. Somewhere in the last five minutes, this has become a serious business. "Keep it tight early on! Call for every ball! There are points at *stake! Forget Rob's here!* Forget the photographer! You're playing for the Ackies and that's all that matters!" says Phil. "This team turned Red Star over twice last season!" says someone.

Generalised shouting takes over: "Easy ball!" "Play it simple!" And, simply: "Ackies!!"

A *small, scruffy boy* intrudes. He points at something. "Can I have that?" he says. "Out! Out! Out!" says Phil.

On the Astro, after the warm up, there is another team talk, in which Gus Robertson, 35, another charity *administrator*, *reiterates what* Phil said ten minutes before. Then, there is more exhortatory shouting, and then the match kicks off.

Following a rapid and remarkable series of egregious defensive errors by the Ackies, Brixton Munchen Gladbach score in the first minute.

"*Organise!*" shouts Phil.

*The Ackies' best league fin*ish in seven seasons has been fourth out of ten, in 1992-3. *Last season*, they were seventh, with five wins, a draw and ten defeats. "Yeah, we've had some pretty abysmal performances," admits Gus. "But even then, we would still *analyse, still appreciate the* beautiful game.

"We used to have people who were really hopeless but were really nice blokes and they'd have been heartbroken if you left them out. People used to come straight from parties, on two hours' sleep, and they'd be chucking their guts up after 20 minutes."

This season, however, a more ruthless selectorial and disciplinary regime has put the Ackies top of the LRL with over half the season gone. "People like me now only play if the numbers aren't there," says Gus, accepting his lot.

And now the chosen 11 begin *to prove their worth and for 20* minutes in the middle of the first half they look really quite good, intimidatingly good, a-lot-better-than-me good.

Passes are strung. Set pieces pay off. They go 4-1 up. Phil *smiles*. He says to me: "You can see your moment of glory approaching."

And so it comes, as promised, after an hour, and it would be a lot easier to write this next bit if I were a really bad footballer, but I'm not, just mediocre and way out of practice. I used to play regularly at college, but that was eight years ago. So I huff and *puff* around a bit. Fortunately, the Brixton defence all seem to be smokers, too. I have a comedy collision with their goalkeeper, and I miss a decent chance — *but you don't* get slagged for lack of skill, only lack of effort — and Kier *keeps shouting*, "*Let's* get Rob a goal!", which is nice of him, and their centre half says, "Who's this Rob?" and I try and fail to keep up with Julian, my 18-year-old striking partner, who can run like the wind, who once came third in the 100m for Harrow Schools, and who goes on to score three for the Ackies in the second *half*, and *so they* — we — win 7-2. And I go off to qualified praise and I'm thinking, maybe if I got myself fit. . .

"On the way to the pub, Kier and John swap analyses. "The *bloke you were marking is a* great player but he's getting old and fat," says Kier. "Their *defence was* clueless," says John. There is much talk of grinding out a result while not playing especially well.

I talk to George Daniel, 23, newly graduated in graphics and fine art, central defender and, by some distance, the Ackies best player, the one the others say could have been a pro. You're good aren't you George, I say. "Everyone says so but I don't feel it," he says. He likes playing at the back. "It's good to know *sometimes* you have saved the day."

George is so good-natured that, when the team choose their Man of the Match in the pub, he has been known to vote for all the nominees.

There have on occasions been four Daniel brothers in the team, but today Nathan, 29, is ill, Mickey — already mentioned — *is on the bench* because an old knock has been playing him up, and Sammy, 19, has not turned out this season because he has been working Sundays at Ikea to save up for his imminent travels in Asia. He is here today, however, *his last week*end in England, to support.

Sammy forms one-seventh of the crowd, the rest of which is: the brothers' dad, Earl; Mickey's daughter Jade; Phil's brother Andy; two small boys, and Shane, a young neighbour of Nathan Daniel, watching and waiting, the Ackies' youth policy made flesh.

Sammy explains that *he's* been earning double-time on Sundays, too good to spurn. "*But I miss the football, man,*" he says wistfully. "I miss it bad." I've missed it too. I'd forgotten how much.

JOHN ANGERSON

The Ackies Sunday league squad. Back row, left to right: John Phillips, 37, accountant; Gus Robertson, 35, charity administrator; Joe Bond, 36, solicitor; Tom Findlay, 24, public relations officer; Patrick Ladbury, 27, charity worker; Shane Corby, 15, schoolboy; Trevor Hurst, 33, bank worker; John Feeney, 24, barman; Adrian Ladbury, 31, journalist. Front row: *Phil Watson, 36, charity administrator; George Daniel, 23, artist; Kier Starmer, 34, barrister;* Nick Foord, 19, student; Sammy Daniel, 19, customer relations; Julian Frederick, 18, office junior; Mickey Daniel, 26, artist; Jade Daniel, four, fan

Anyone for crochet? Suddenly it's upbeat and sophisticated, says **Heath Brown**

TOP LEFT: Chocolate fine crochet knit dress and satin slip, £39.99, River Island,124 Kensington High Street, W8 and branches nationwide (0181-998 8822)

MAIN PICTURE: Baby blue halter neck top, £29.99, River Island, as before

FAR LEFT: Chocolate beaded cardigan, £110, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-487 4484). Multi-coloured knit trousers, £36.99, Jeffrey Rogers, branches nationwide (0171-208 4300). Khaki leather thongs, £165, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

All photographs by **Richard Burns**
Hair and make-up by
Sally Kvalheim
Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

Forget all your preconceptions about crochet. Gone are the days of its association with doting grandmas sitting by the fire making baby coats and booties. Now a much more upbeat image surrounds this knitting technique. Since its fashion resurgence, which began with the grunge collection of Marc Jacobs in 1993, through to the Giorgio Armani and Karl Lagerfeld collections the following year, crochet has slowly been infiltrating the designer stores in more and more sophisticated styles.

Today, crocheted clothing is a lot finer and more delicate than fashion creations of the past. "The new look is more beautiful and feminine than people would think possible," says Chris Sims of crochet company D.S. Collection. "It's not just Sixties-style patchwork squares, it's a lot more modern."

There is a great collection of ready-to-wear crochet styles on the high street for this spring and summer. The more delicate floral examples are best. Sheen-made items tend to be finer in lace effects but they can lose their shape. Slightly thicker, preferably hand-made versions are better but medium machine examples, such as the halter top shown here by River Island, and other simple styles are a good buy. Slim and short crochet tops are flattering and the more sheer over-dresses available go well with light chiffon slips and strappy tube dresses underneath.

For the more adventurous, multi-coloured stripes in trousers or cardigans have a hint of the Seventies, but a mixture of bright and sludge colours can look ultra-modern when teamed with a sexy sheer cardigan and the new thong sandals.

THREE OF A KIND

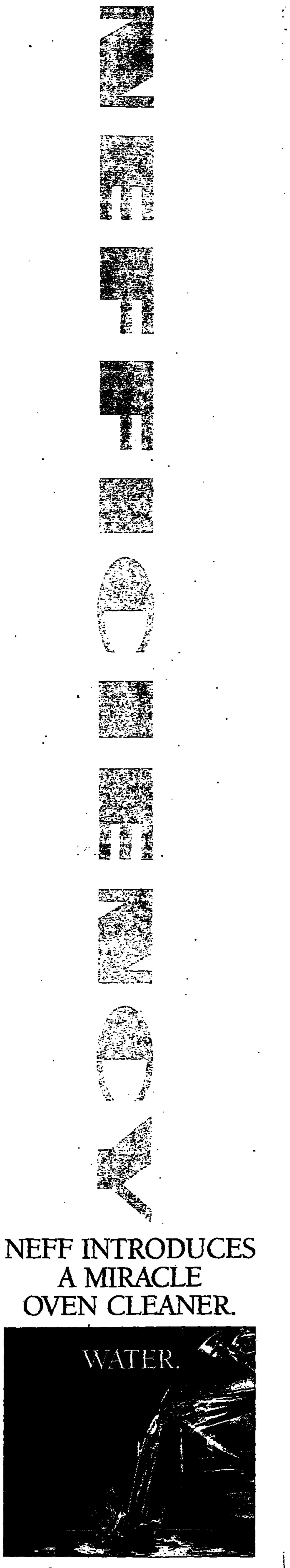
The current trend in multi-coloured shirts for women borrows details from the men's wardrobe. Choose sharp-collared varieties that are made feminine with a fitted waist or buy a smaller size in a men's version. Here are our choices. H.B.

FAR LEFT: Green/white stripey muslin stretch shirt, £60, Agnes B, 111 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-225 3477)

ABOVE: Men's cotton shirt, £55, Jigsaw, 9-10 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-240 5651)

LEFT: Sheer wavy stripe shirt, £34.99, Jeffrey Rogers, branches nationwide (0171-208 4300)

ABOVE: Blue shiny crochet top, £125; chevron stripe skirt, £145, Kate Jones, 28 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-935 4197). Khaki leather thongs, £165, Gina, as before



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Bordering on a small world

Hebes, large or small, make an attraction all year round, says Stephen Anderton

On a hillock in Suffolk, between Debach and Dallinghoo, the dwarfs are massing. It might sound like Tolkien, but it is true. Here, at the Siskin Plants nursery, Chris and Valerie Wheeler are building up a specialist collection of dwarf shrubs and alpines. Their passion is for dwarf hebes, which is hardy in East Anglia — and you can't get much hardier than that.

Hard winters can cut to the ground or kill the large-flowered hybrids of *Hebe speciosa*, but the Wheelers have been collecting the toughest and smallest species (from 3in to 3ft) for six years, and their collection of 85 varieties and species is recognised as a National Collection by the NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens).

Hebe vernicosa: easy to grow

But why the attraction to dwarf plants? There are few plants today as willingly dismissed or scorned by fashion-conscious gardeners as dwarf conifers, particularly in their 1960s-style heather-and-conifer rut. Mr Wheeler admits that even dwarf conifers have flung their fling: he stocks only *Juniperus communis* 'Compressa', a spiky little upright juniper which, in the hunger of a trough, will make as little as 18in in height in ten years, and is therefore invaluable.

Unlike conifers, however, hebes are evergreens which flower well. "We have hebes in flower from late April until October. 'Baby Marie' is always the first, in late April. It is only 1ft high and covers itself in pale lilac flowers. But for a long season going on into the autumn it is hard to beat 'Nicola's Blush', a pink variety which fades to two-tone white."

May to July is the main flowering period for dwarf hebes, with a few coming after that. One of the Wheelers' recommendations is *Hebe recurva*, which flowers in August and September, when few other shrubs are at their peak. It has narrow, grey leaves an inch or more long, and stubby spikes of white flowers.

I grew half a dozen of these plants 1ft apart, in a block, in a raised bed in Northumberland. They took every wind that blew and never looked any the worse for that. After ten years of generous flowering, the group was still only a couple of feet high, and starting to lean out attractively over the edge of the bed. The plants had never been pruned, apart from some pinching out of tips in the first couple of years to make them bushy.

I could not tell Mrs Wheeler this. She is firmly in the pruning school of hebe growers. "All hebes, apart from the whipcord-like varieties — whose leaves have been reduced by nature to the appearance of scaly stems — *must* be pruned after flowering; just a haircut all over, to take off the old flower heads." And I am sure she is right. If flower power is the main aim, hebes need a haircut, like heather.

Pruning keeps them denser. There is a low species, *Hebe subalpina*, with apple-green leaves which, Mrs Wheeler says, is inclined to become bare at the centre. It needs its leading tips pinched regularly to keep its inner stems covered. Pinching produces shoots which cross back over into the centre, hiding the baldness.

Hebes have a lot in common with heathers. They are neat, tidy, hummocky plants, good for a decade or so of service in the garden. It is no surprise that the Wheelers get regular requests not just for plants for troughs, but for a planting plan to go with them. It is a service they are pleased to provide because so often, in a trough, one low plant — bought as an "alpine" — will turn rampant and smother its cohabitants.

The appeal of true dwarfs is that they stay neat and tidy, do not get out of hand and, if suitably chosen, can coexist happily for many years.

SIMON WALKER

Judy Foster has started planting dwarf hebes and alpines in troughs and sinks in her Suffolk garden

It was this appeal which drew a customer, Mrs Judy Foster, to ask the Wheelers to design a planting of dwarfs and alpines for the troughs and sinks in her new garden nearby. Dwarf hebes can be used like heathers, in a bed on their own, and, in these circumstances, it is important to make the most of textures. As well as the dense hummocks of hebes such as *H. topiaria* (12in-24in), there are more open textured varieties like *H. pimeloïdes* 'Quicksilver' (18in), which has blackish, arching stems covered in tiny silvery blue leaves. You might almost take this one for a species of broom or cotoneaster.

Then there are the species, such as *H. vernicosa* and *pauciramosa*, which hold their leaves out in four directions up the stem. And there are the whipcord hebes, such as *H. hectorii* (16in) and 'James Stirling' (16in), with their scaly "stems".

Hebes are easy to grow. "Any soil will do, so long as it is not too dry or waterlogged. The whipcords especially hate drought."

Hebes are certainly easy to propagate. I knew an old man in central London who used to cut 18in branches off the large-flowered hybrids in spring, stick them in the ground in a shady place and, with regular squirts from a hose, they grew away the same season. In autumn he would move them into the full sun.

Even the Wheelers do not use rooting hormone for most species. They take their cuttings year at about a couple in inches long under polythene, with no artificial bottom heat in summer, though covering does speed up the process in winter. But for most of us, late summer is the easiest time for cuttings.

● *Siskin Plants, Davey Lane, Charsfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7QG (01473 737567), offers several collections of dwarf and alpine plants, including two dwarf hebe collections at £22 each. Catalogue, £1. Container planting design fee, £5.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **This winter I have prepared my garden for turfing. Should I lay it now or wait until March? The soil is dry and sandy and I am worried about drought if I leave it too long.** — Dr Jane Davis, West Kirby, Cheshire.

A The reason for recommending March is that the turf is then making new roots in the spring warmth which will establish quickly. The sooner it is rooted the sooner you can use the lawn. If you want to lay it before then, and can find the turf, go ahead, but you will need to keep off it until it is established. This way the minute the roots start to grow they will begin to establish *in situ*. Avoid doing this work in frosty weather. If you want to lay very fine, expensive turf, the result may be better when laid in March.

Q **My son is building a conservatory and wants to put in a water supply. Which is the lesser of two evils: a supply from a bore hole with a high lime content, or a household supply treated by a water-softener containing salt?** — Mrs S. Isa, St Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands.

A I would go for the softened supply. Salt is used in the purification but the resulting water is not salty. The salt serves to clean the ion exchange resins which do the work of taking out the lime. The resins also take out the magnesium ions, so in the long-term a balanced feeding program will be necessary. Limy water, though cheaper, would reduce the number of plants you could grow — no rhododendrons or camellias — and it also encrusts on clay pots and on glass. Water-spray nozzles block, too. Softened water would be much cleaner, even if the pressure is less.

Q **What tree or large shrub could I grow in ground saturated by an inefficient soakaway at a cesspit? The ground water will contain detergents as well as nutrients. The cesspit is in a paddock close to woodland.** — Mrs M.P. Kirton, Bagshot, Surrey.

A The detergents should *not* be a problem. I assume that, at Bagshot, you are on acid soil, so if you want a splash of bright pink why not try some plants of the mountain laurel *Kalmia latifolia*. It loves good, rich, wet soil, and the icing-sugar pink flowers in midsummer are hugely attractive. As an evergreen it will draw water all year round. Alternatively, you could plant a deciduous conifer, such as the swamp cypress *Taxodium distichum* or the dawn redwood *Metasequioa glyptostroboides*. Both have good autumn colour. Willow trees, such as *Salix alba* and its forms, would do well, and could be pollarded to maximise the winter bark colour. If you wanted something shrubbier, say 6ft-10ft in all-over size, try *Salix moupinensis* or *fargesii*. Both have broad, glamorous, un-willow-like foliage and shining mahogany winter buds and bark.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

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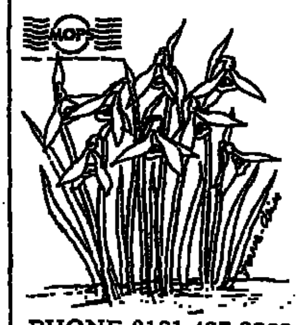
In our March issue, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of BBC Radio 4's *Gardeners' Question Time*, with a free 32-page magazine. In it, the present chairman, Eric Robson, traces the history of the show. And members of the team answer your 101 most common questions. Also this month you'll find the second extract from Geoff Hamilton's book, *Private Paradises*. And we welcome back the new series of BBC 2's *Gardeners' World*, with Alan Titchmarsh's ideas on Mediterranean gardening.

DON'T MISS THE MARCH ISSUE OUT NOW.



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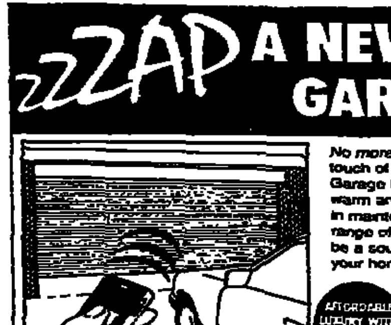

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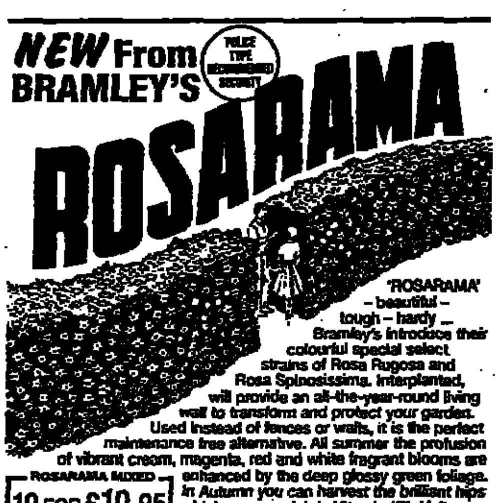

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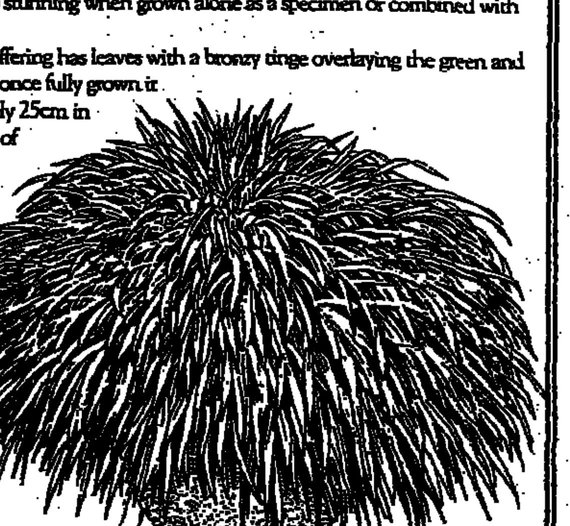

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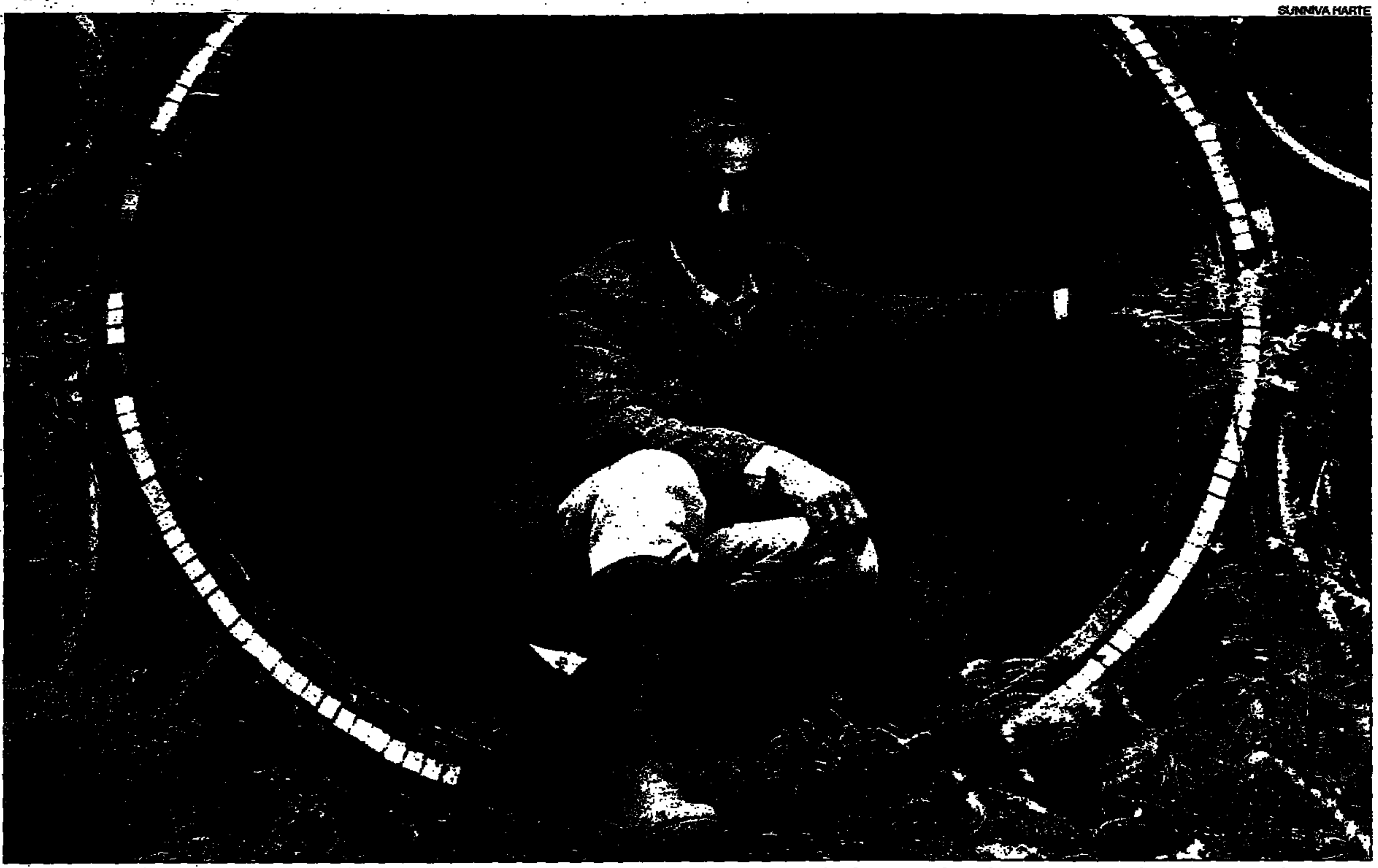
Jane Owen dips into her favourite guide to great British gardens — whether traditional, quirky or overrun by gnomes

A fine book with highly original plots

The Garden in Mind near Rowlands Castle, Hampshire


SUNNIVA HARTE

Ivan Hicks with one of his sculptures in the mystic pool area at Groombridge Place, Kent, which is open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme

This year the National Gardens Scheme, which has turned us into a nation of garden voyeurs and, some garden owners would maintain, plant thieves, celebrates its 70th year. Actually I think they are being modest and could, at a push, celebrate nearly 90 years.

Either way, it's done well: the scheme, which last year gave £1.3 million to the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund, the Good Samaritan Fund of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, and Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund among others, opened 3,500 gardens in England and Wales. Some are big, some tiny, some professional, some amateur, and some open only for the National Gardens Scheme or the Yellow Book as the annual garden directory is known.

The scheme's birthday calculation goes back to Elsie Wagg of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, who in 1927 suggested opening gardens at sixpence a time to raise money for her organisation. At a push, the NGS could take its inception back to Sir Frank Crisp, a solicitor who created a garden in Henley-on-Thames and charged sixpence a head which went to the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, the Gardeners' Orphan Fund, and the Mayor of Henley's Convalescent Fund in the first decade of the century.

In many respects, his garden was typical of the eccentric gems still to be found in the Yellow Book. His was one of the first in this country to include gnomes and it also had an accurate scale model of the Matterhorn made from 20,000 tons of millstone grit.

The garden is well recorded and was truly odd in its landscaping, but the planting, according to contemporaries, was excellent — "the finest example of rock gardening outside the Alps," wrote E.H.Jenkins in *The Garden* in 1912. Today, it is closed to the public.

This year, for a garden in the same league as Sir Frank's, try Ivan and Angie Hicks' The Garden In Mind on the Sussex/Hampshire border, which is surreal. Plants sprout from desks and typewriters, trees and shrubs are contorted into strange shapes, pieces of hanging mirror twinkle between sculpture and sequoia, and paths lead in and out of plants symbolising Celtic mythology. For a traditional but brilliant garden, try Richard Nutt's near High Wycombe, which is home to the national collection of *Leucojum* as well as being famed for its huge variety of snowdrops, hellebores, crocus, speckled-leaved pink or blue-flowered pulmonarias (Mr Nutt bred the famous *Pulmonaria* 'Barfield Regalia') and autumn crocus.

About 15 years ago when I first visited his garden, through the Yellow Book, Mr Nutt introduced me to willows — varieties of *Salix alba* — pollarded close to the ground so that the colourful new growth gives spectacular colour in winter. He copied the technique from the gardener and author Valerie Finnis and from the Cambridge Botanical Garden, but it is a technique used to its ultimate effectiveness by arranging red branched willows as the front of the bed, then the orange, and finally the brightest colour yellow.

For those whose family and friends are less than enthusiastic about garden visiting, check the "teas" entries. Tea and plant sales tend to raise more money than the entrance, and so, when teas are on offer, huge effort is put into making excellent cakes. They produce somnolence in reluctant garden visitors and ensure that outings will be better received.

WEEKEND TIPS

- ■ Divide and replant clumps of snowdrops and aconites into twos and threes while still in full leaf.
- ■ Protect early blossom on wall fruit trees against frost, with polythene, horticultural fleece, netting or paper.
- ■ Cut back to 2-3 buds the long wands of growth on wisteria.
- ■ Sow over heat bedding plants requiring an early start, such as begonia, lobelia and antirrhinum.
- ■ Cut dead leaves off *Helleborus* before flowering begins.

GARDENS TO VISIT

- ■ Richard Nutt's garden, Great Barfield, Bradenham, Bucks (4m NW of High Wycombe, 4m S of Princes Risborough). Open Feb 23, 2pm-5pm.
- ■ Groombridge Place Gardens, Groombridge, Kent (4m south of Tunbridge Wells). Open March 28-October 26, 10am-6pm.
- ■ The Garden In Mind, Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hants (3m NE of Havant). Open June 1 and September 1, 2-6pm.
- ■ Burncoose Nurseries, Cornwall (3m SE of Redruth on A393), which regularly exhibit at Royal Horticultural Society shows in London. Open March 16, 11am-5pm.
- ■ George Plumptre's parents' garden at Goodnestone Park, Kent. Open February 16 and March 16, noon-6pm.
- ■ Joan Royd House, Penistone, Yorkshire, Sheffield (M1 junction 37, then A628). Open March 5, 2-5pm.
- ■ The National Garden Scheme Yellow Book, *Gardens of England and Wales open for charity 1997*, £3.50, is available from most good bookshops from the end of February. Or write to the National Gardens Scheme, Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT, with a cheque for £4.25. This year a few gardens will open in the evening. For a list write to the National Gardens Scheme (above).

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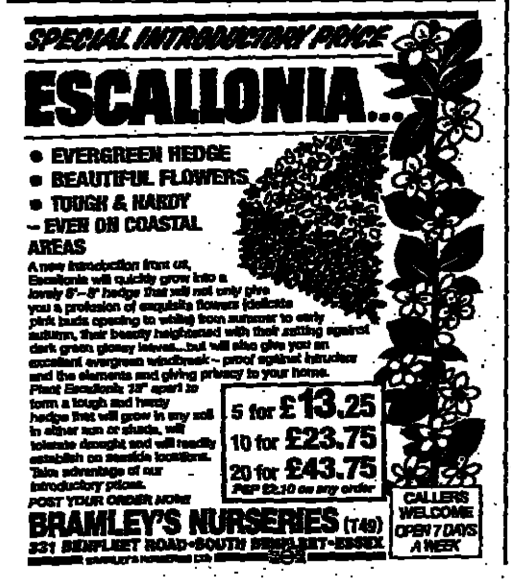
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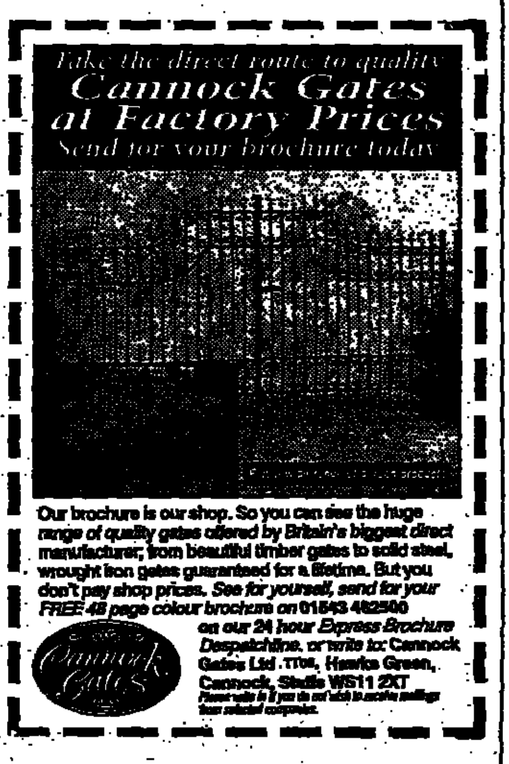
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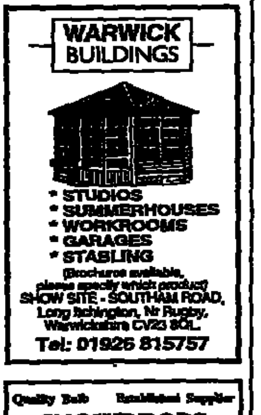
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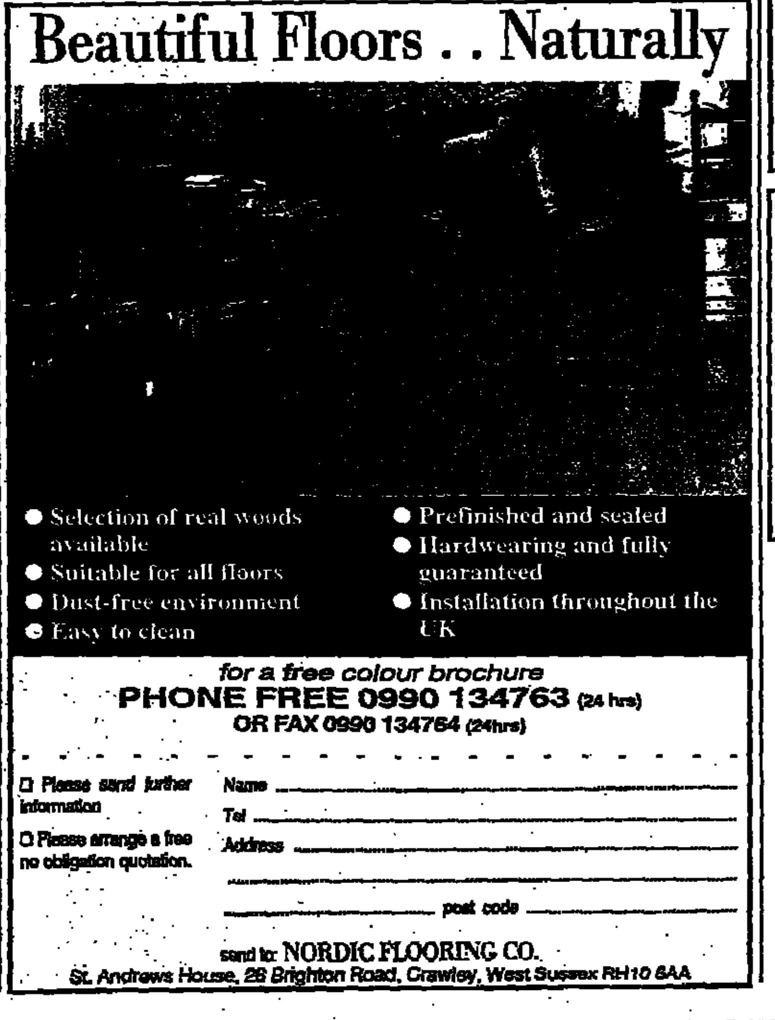
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هكذا من الاصل

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Who will preserve for the nation those old country talents of swinging the mangel-singling hoe and dowsing for water with sticks?

Now Blair's pinched *my* idea

DOWN TO **EARTH**

PAUL HEINEY

You'd never think that Bill Clinton and I have much in common, but we have. Both of us have reason to look sideways at Tony Blair, if not with demonic eyes then certainly with curious ones. American journalists have been quick to spot that many of Mr Blair's *soundbites appear remarkably similar* to those used in the recent presidential election by Mr Clinton.

I, on the other hand, find that an idea you read here first is now on the lips of *the wannabe prime minister*. Like Clinton, I am modestly shrugging it off. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

It was Mr Blair's recent promise to found a "National Trust for Talent" that *had a familiar ring to it. I remember*, at the time that our farm was being dismantled, voicing concerns over what would happen to my aged farmworker friend, Dilly. He was master of the *mangel-singling hoe*, and to see him going along a row of growing mangelwurzels, chopping out the weeds and surplus plants, was *as fine a feast to the* eye as any ballet. I feared Dilly would be lost to the nation if the National Trust did not take him on. I wanted more emphasis on preserving old talents, less on preserving old bricks and mortar.

There are any number of rural skills which are in the increasingly stiff old hands of men and women who will take the secret with them to the grave. My NTT would preserve them to pass the knack on. Alas, I *discovered that* Mr Blair's heart was more on the screen and stage than in the ditch or atop the muckheap. The picture accompanying his announcement showed him exchanging confidences with *Lord Attenborough*. I would rather it had been Lord Emsworth.

Never mind, if it is only theatrical skills which will get National Talent Trust Money, we have them, too. Dickie Attenborough would have enjoyed the latest display of gusto, slapping of thighs *and* "behind yous" by the Southwold and Reydon Pantomime Society. Some of the jokes were less National Trust than British Museum, but it was a remarkable performance from an amateur, entirely female cast, and we chortled all the way from topical jests about the royal yacht to a lady who *brought the house* down with a glimpse of her frilly bloomers. We think she's a nurse at the hospital, *or works in the fruit* shop.

But even at the panto I worried. The script was a reworking of the story of Jack and Jill, which centres on the fetching of pails of water. This is no longer a joking matter. The *present concern in arid eastern England* is that there will very soon be no water at all. It has not rained properly for months, and so when I should have been joining in the "Oh, *no it* isn'ts", my troubled mind was on other matters. And other talents.

Some years ago I met a dowser. These gifted individuals are able to detect, by means *not* given to all, the presence of underground water. This chap was remarkable. He told the tale of a painstaking geological *study* to establish the whereabouts of much-needed water on one of the Isles of Scilly. A university team, on the basis of extensive research, *named* the favoured spot and drilling commenced. Not a drop. The dowser suggested a spot 50 yards to the north and, before they had gone very far, there was *more than enough* water to quench the blushes of any geologist. It is a gift, bestowed on more people than you might imagine. You may have it. Much to my surprise, I apparently have.

The dowser placed a forked hazel twig in my hands, showed me how to grip it and, eyes closed, off I walked across a field like a nervous child playing pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey. I swear that hazel twig developed a *mind of its own halfway* across that field.

Such was the violence of its movement that it became difficult to hold. *The dowser told me to open* my eyes. I was standing next to a trough and had just crossed the underground water pipe which fed it.

Whatever talent it is, we are going to *need more of it*, given that the Yellow Pages are devoid of dancing rainmakers. We need people who can sniff out what water there is. But if the talent has gone to the grave, as have so many others, then what are we going *to do?*

Perhaps we should all practise. If you *cannot* get the hazel twig, you will certainly be able to lay your hands on a wire coathanger. Cut two L-shaped rods and place them into sleeves *you can hold*; dowelling with a hole drilled down the middle *would be ideal*. The rods must be able to move freely. Hold one in each hand, the prongs horizontal so that any movement is due to forces other than gravity. Then set off on your search.

If you come near water, expect the rods to waggle with no help from you. The secret *is not in the rods*: your mental state is paramount and if you embark on your dowsing in the "it will never work for me, don't I look silly" *frame of mind, you* might as well not try.

I am practising, against the day Jack and Jill climb all the way up the hill and find a note of apology from the chairman of the water company.

Mr Clinton, on the other hand, is probably grasping a springy twig at this very moment and running it over Tony Blair's speeches, to see if anything familiar *starts to twitch*.

For peat's sake let's use bracken

The fight is on to conserve our peat bogs and make use of the self-renewing weed that chokes the countryside

JULIAN HERBERT

Rona Pitman, an environmental consultant, with Harry Oram (left) and Dave Morris of the Forestry Commission at a bracken site in the New Forest

Consider a paradox. This weekend many people *will* prepare for spring with a visit to their garden centre. There they will innocently buy bags of an irreplaceable biological *deposit*, *the foundation to rich* and rare wet habitats of international botanical value, to use as potting compost, mulch or soil conditioner.

At the same time, a pernicious weed, a health hazard to beast and possibly man, is left more or less unchecked to choke and smother delicate flora and fauna and overrun an area of heath and moorland the size of Yorkshire.

At the same time an irreplaceable biological deposit, the foundation to rich and rare wet habitats of international botanical value, is routinely *dug up, put into bags and will* be sold at garden centres all over Britain this weekend to fill flowerpots.

The ideal solution would be for the accursed bracken to be cut down and substituted for precious peat, solving two problems with (metaphorically) one sweep of the scythe.

Nature doesn't deal in ideal solutions? Just for once it does.

In trials in the New Forest, Hampshire, and in Wales, bracken is made into a compost which performed as well as peat in nursery experiments. Given the chance to buy, the public clean out *available stocks*.

There may be enough bracken, a self-renewing and sustainable resource, to replace much of the 1.5 million *cubic metres of peat still being* won in Britain, the greater part from raised peat bog sites of special scientific interest.

Bracken was once a prized commodity. In medieval times it was burnt to make potash. Then its ashes were used in the manufacture of glass, soap, detergent and bricks. It was harvested for fuel and used as thatch. It was cut as bedding for cattle and pigs until well *into this* century. *As its use* declined, and particularly with the decrease in cattle grazing, which kept it in check, bracken began to overrun *grassland and hillside*.

It is now a widespread and confounded nuisance. Bracken covers about 7 per cent of the land area of Great Britain. *On some hill farms in* Wales, up to 40 per cent of potential grazing area is bracken-infested. It is a big problem on national nature reserves, where in places it grows so densely that all lesser plant life is extinguished.

The New Forest is an appropriate site for a last stand against bracken. The Forestry Commission is legally obliged to keep the 2,000 or so hectares of forest grassland subject to *bracken invasion open as* grazing land for commoners' horses and cattle. For the past three years, Dr Rona Pitman, an environmental consultant, *has advised the commission* on a regime for harvesting bracken on about 65 hectares of grassland. The bracken, mechanically harvested in September as it begins to die back, is gathered into a heap to compost. It is left for about ten months, *and* turned several times. Temperatures inside reach as high as 70C, sufficient to kill any residual toxins and organisms. (Bracken spores are a carcinogen *in animals* under test conditions, and possibly in humans, though no link has been proved. Bracken also harbours the tick *that spreads Lyme disease. It* affects about 150 people a year in Britain and can be fatal.

The commission produces about 1,000 cubic metres of composted bracken, which it sells locally as soil improver or mulch at £12 a cubic metre.

In tests which Dr Pitman conducted with Horticulture Research International at Efford, Hampshire, bracken compost compared favourably with all other composts. It has *a low pH and is particularly* suitable for acid-loving plants, such as heather and rhododendron. "Gardeners in the know have used bracken on a *small scale throughout history* for pot-growing and hardy plants, and it has been used as a surface mulch in large public gardens," Dr Pitman says. "*But we were the first to try it* out on a scientific basis."

In separate trials, part funded by the *EU* at four farms near Crickhowell, in southeast Wales, bracken was mixed with poultry manure and composted for three months. "It *produced an excellent compost*," says Professor Jim Taylor, Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, whose company, Environmental Consultants, directed the work. "Manure from turkeys and battery chickens enhances the beautiful fibrous matrices *provided by bracken. In our* view it is superior to peat."

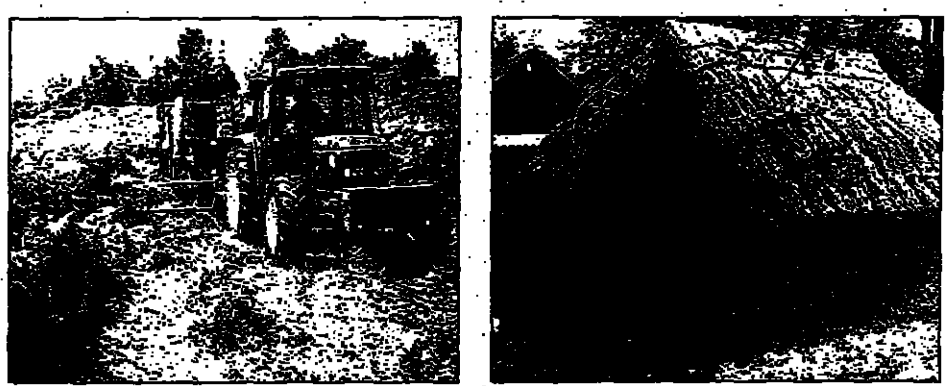
There are two ways to deal with bracken. Cutting it green in the summer over several years weakens it so much that it can be eradicated with the selective herbicide Asulox. The second approach *is to treat it* as a sustainable resource to be *cut for compost when it is* dying back in the autumn.

However the continuing popularity of peat, despite vigorous campaigning by conservationists, suggests there will be a big consumer switch only if it can compete on cost. *The present economics of* bracken mean that it can only *meet or undercut the low price* of peat if it is sold within 50 miles of the production point.

Before bracken becomes nationally available, further trials need to be conducted in other parts of Britain, where climate and soil variations *may affect yield, particularly* in the east and north of *England and in Scotland*. Dr Pitman has approached, unsuccessfully, almost every official funding body operating in the countryside, from the Ministry of Agriculture downwards, to underwrite the cost of pilot projects.

Professor Taylor estimates that the bracken harvest in Wales alone could create a market worth millions of pounds. "It is the same elsewhere in Britain. Bracken can be cut on boulder-free land, provided the slope is less than 30 degrees," he says.

"I'm told there is enough *bracken to cut on the North* Yorks Moors *to* fill Cardiff Arms Park. But we do need money to launch and enhance this activity, which must be on a big scale if we are to turn a problem into a product."



The mechanically cut bracken can be stacked like a hayrick, and then used as compost

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Power base for Scottish invaders

FEATHER REPORT

ALONG the firths on the east coast of Scotland there are great wintering populations of seabirds and waders. I had a view of some of them on the Firth of Forth last week.

I was at a remarkable bird reserve at Musselburgh Lagoons, only a few miles along the coast east of Edinburgh. The electricity company Scottish Power owns a coal-fired power station a little further east at Cockenzie, which for more than 30 years has been *sending its ash waste — pulverised fuel* ash, as it is called — through underground water pipes down to the lagoon area. In the course of those years, the company has converted the resulting *ash deposits at Musselburgh into* a bird reserve, a boating pool and a landscaped area of grass and trees.

The ash is still flowing, and the surviving lagoons will one day be filled in and landscaped too. But the large area that has been laid out as shallow pools and mud scrapes specifically as a bird reserve will be kept permanently, as will the boating pool.

The reserve has a full-time warden, Dave Allan, an ornithologist, who is employed by Scottish Power and the East Lothian District Council to control the scrapes and pools and monitor the birds. He also keeps a sea-eye open, because the reserve is just behind the sea-wall, and divers and grebes, duck and auks, are constantly to be seen out in the Firth.

The wind was blowing strong and cold, but a skylark was singing as we made our way beneath the banks of the reserve to what Mr Allan knew to be a good vantage-point. Then we cautiously raised our field-glasses, telescopes and heads above the bank.

An amazing spectacle confronted us. *Five brent geese — birds rarely seen so* far north — immediately took off and winged their way up the coast towards Edinburgh. In the corner of the shallow pool to our left, four ruffs — *the most elegant of waders, with their* long pink legs and haughty-looking, upright stance — were feeding delicately on the mud.

Along the front of an island, a *hundred or more knots — small,* plump and hunchbacked — were shuffling to and fro at the water's edge. Behind them rose the tall figures of almost as many bar-tailed godwits, crowding along the back of the island. Their long, upturned bills, pink at the base, waved gracefully above the heads of the knots. I had never seen such a large flock of them before.

Occasionally a bird of either species would lift its pointed wings for a moment, or even fly a few feet, but for the most part the whole mass of waders just shifted comfortably *around the tiny island. A few brawny* herring-gulls sat placidly among them.

Next, echoing calls drew our attention to a party of curlews wading in shallow water far over to the right, *their curved beaks silhouetted against* the bright surface. There was a group *of dunlins, a turnstone* and a ringed plover on the far shore, while behind them dozed a large black-and-white flock of oystercatchers.

Now it was time for the sea. We passed the boating pool, which had no boats on it this afternoon, but a flock of about 80 widgeon. We also passed a grassy pit, where four twites — the little yellow-beaked linnets of the north — were taking refuge from the wind.

Just over the sea-wall, where the water was at high tide, handsome eiders were *floating about*. Then we suddenly saw a bird to match the godwits in excitement. Swimming just a few yards out was a large alert-looking bird with a long, sharp beak and a dappled, silvery back. It was a red-throated diver — unmistakable at this range, because the typical upward tilt of that long beak was so obvious. It dived into the choppy water, and a long time seemed to pass before *it surfaced* again, much further out.

A long-tailed duck flew in and landed, and far away we picked out with Mr Allan's ocean-ranging telescope both a *Slavonian and a red*-necked grebe, riding between the waves and only visible for a split second at a time. Like every ornithological host, he was wringing his hands in dismay at what we *had not* seen but should have done — common and velvet scoters, perhaps a glaucous gull, perhaps a peregrine falcon. However, for me it had been a spectacular tally.

If you *go to* Musselburgh Lagoons, just off the A1, you will find notices round the reserve saying "Private". But Mr Allan does not mind birdwatchers going in — providing they keep below the banks, and let the birds, too, enjoy this strange, Scottish ash-made haven.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Look out for rooks returning to their tree-top colonies and starting to build or reconstruct nests. Twitchers — Bonaparte's gull, Drift Reservoir, Cornwall; white-tailed eagle, Grulnard Island, Highlands; female lesser scaup, Tophill Low, East Yorkshire. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

PETER BROWN

Knots and godwits crowd along the shore at Musselburgh Lagoons

Exactly where the money came from to build this fine house is uncertain, but there's talk of opium deals. . .

Flass, in the Eden Valley, was built in the mid-1800s and, it is said, "cost a syte o' brass"

The mansion of mystery

A Westmorland dialect poet writing in the 19th century about Flass, the grand mansion at Maulds Meaburn in the Eden Valley, did not have to think too hard to find a rhyme that fitted the bill. The couplet, as recalled by one local, went something like: "Yon mansion house called Flass, it cost a syte o' brass. . ."

That would hardly engage him among the Lake Poets, more McGonagall than Wordsworth, but it did sum up local attitudes towards a house that was a bit of a mystery in the days when drug barons were recognised as being more enterprising than raffish. History has it that one Lancelot Dent, tea merchant and entrepreneur of the China trade, made a fortune from opium and that the "laundered" proceeds went into transforming Flass from a yeoman farmer's house into one of the grandest mansions in the county.

The present owner, Malcolm Whiteside, says that although ostensibly it was Lancelot's sister who, in the mid-19th century, began the project to reshape Flass, no one knows why she did so on such a grand scale, or quite where the money came from.

Her two brothers, Lancelot and Wilkinson Dent, had grown wealthy from the tea trade, but the commodity in strongest demand in China at the time was illicit opium. "Lancelot was reckoned to be something of a star performer in this field, so successful that his arrest was demanded by the Chinese viceroy in Canton." Mr Whiteside says. "History has it that he held 100 chests of opium when the next biggest trader had a mere ten chests. Lancelot wisely kept his head down but the threat of his arrest led, it is said, to the Opium Wars between Britain and China."

With such a history locked behind its high walls and Palladian façade, Flass has always intrigued visitors to this valley. The entry gates are guarded by a pair of armorial beasts, a tiger and a unicorn, carved in stone, and the drive leads to an imposing portico where carriages once made stately arrival. On my visit, a Mini was parked there out of the torrential rain that swelled the River Lyvennet flowing alongside the property and gushed in torrents over a montage of giant clam shells brought back by the Dent brothers from the Far East.

The fine central hall is high with mock-marble columns

This was not the day to see Flass at its best. But I have stood on the lawn on a summer evening as Gaudeamus, a local choir, gathered in the ornate drawing room to sing madrigals, the sound drifting through the tall French windows and mingling with the whisper of the river. That was Flass as it should be remembered.

This time the skies opened and Flass lived up to its name, deriving from the middle English word for a lake or marsh. Presumably, the Lyvennet once took a more aggressive course through the 15-acre grounds. The only music came from the wind howling against trees sheltering the house, among them a towering *Sequoia Wellingtonia* planted after the battle of Waterloo. The tree stands as straight as the general it commemorates and survived undamaged in the Battle of the Great Gale in '87.

We settled before an open fire in the library. It is a cosy room with a secret door in a *faux-livres* panel through which maids bearing tea would materialise in the days of the Dents.

Mr Whiteside and Mary, his wife, described their years keeping the Grade II* listed mansion up to scratch. "The house was handed down the Dent family line until it reached Sir Robert Dent, clerk of public bills at the House of Commons. It was then sold along with most of its treasures — superb paintings, bronzes and, supposedly, the only mandarin's bed in the Western world, upon which one could imagine Lancelot languishing in an opiate haze, if he ever touched the stuff. The bed has since been restored and now rests in the Durham University Museum of Oriental Art.

The Whitesides bought Flass in 1982, when Mr Whiteside, a solictor, retired. Mrs Whitehouse was a nurse so, with her mother, they ran the house as a care home, for which the eight bedrooms with *en suite* bathrooms and a maze of other rooms was ideal. Unfortunately, they ran up against new fire regulations; something to do with "travelling distance" between some of the beds and the bedroom door.

"New regulations seem to come in a steady stream with every post, so Flass is now on the market. It could have all kinds of uses; anything from a family home to an exclusive restaurant or small conference centre," Mr Whiteside says. Though the house would benefit from a lick of paint, Flass retains its grand proportions and features. A flight of polished limestone steps leads from the entrance hallway into a high, square central hall with richly coloured mock-marble columns. Statues of the Goddess Ceres and an Uffizi Venus replica regard one another across the space.

Flass was built at a time when the production of sheet glass had been thoroughly mastered and the architect took full advantage of this. Many of the ground floor rooms have narrow, stylish windows reaching from floor to high ceiling, and the view radiates from the central hall in all directions. A long hallway with elegant, barrel-vaulted ceiling ends in high French windows that lead into what was once a conservatory and is now a charming, sheltered corner that opens out into a garden surrounding a pool. The grandest rooms at Flass are the saloon and drawing rooms, which form a T-shape that may be used as one open space or separated by large panels that fold into the wall.

The Dent brothers spared no expense on the decoration here, with ornate marble fireplaces, extravagant architraving and mirrored shutters to protect the windows. Quality and prestige shine in brass hinges, marble decor, elaborate Italian plasterwork, ivory door handles and push plates.

The dining room next door reflects the same air of opulence and I imagined Lancelot, the trader baron, recalling, in an after-dinner haze of cigar smoke, his brush with the Emperor of China over the matter of supplying 100 chests of opium. How exactly he came by this formidable supply is not recorded, but it would have no doubt caused him a wry smile, considering his interest in poppies, that a latter-day Dent would found the Wild Flower Society.

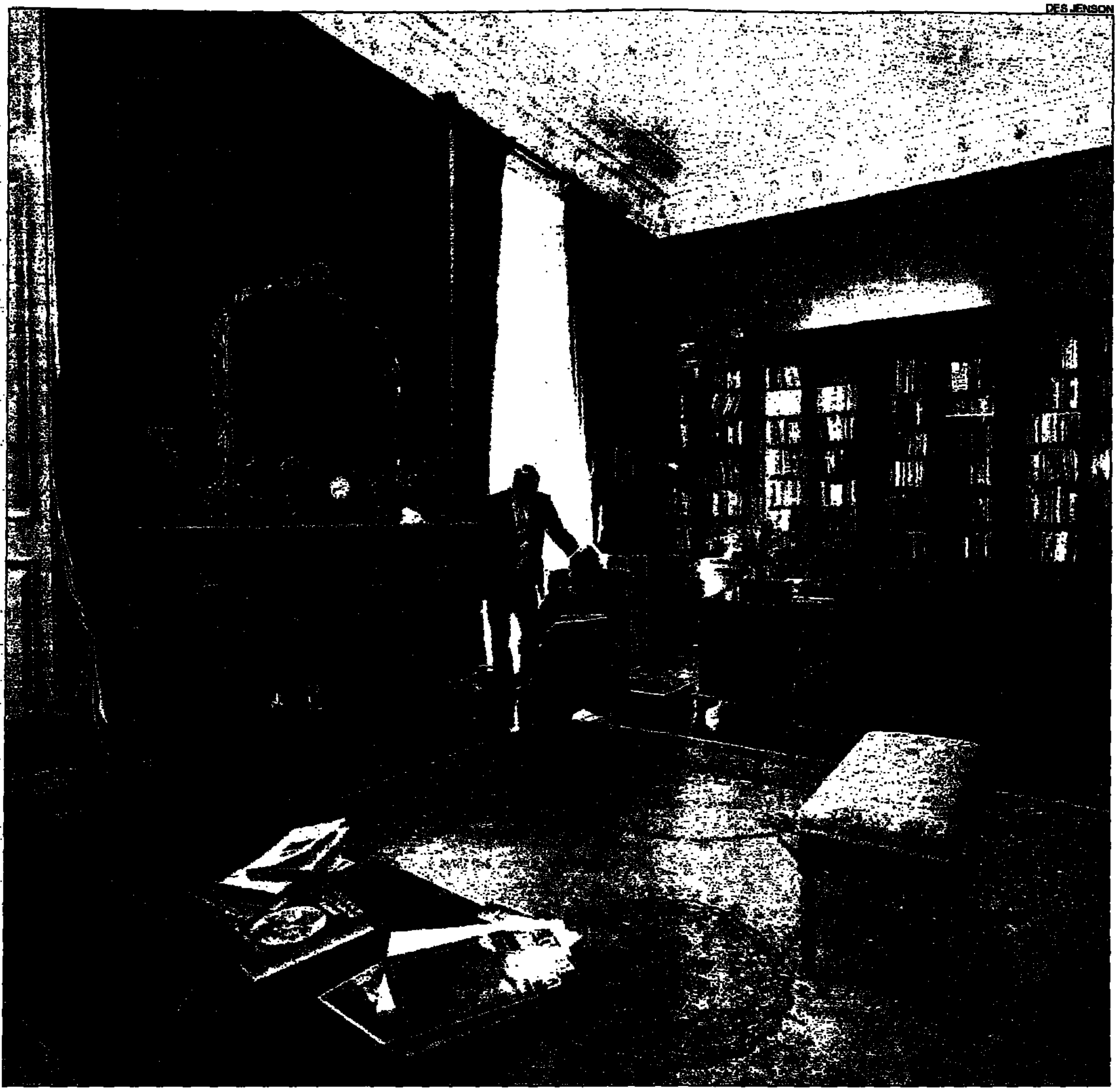
RONALD FAUX

● *Agent: Strutt and Parker, 13 Princes Square, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 1LW (01423 561274).*

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Flass, Maulds Meaburn, Cumbria
● **Price:** Offers around £750,000 ● **Setting:** On the edge of one of the prettiest villages in Cumbria, with the Lake District hills just over the horizon ● **Shopping:** Penrith, an expanding market town on the M6, with the west coast main railway line half an hour away by road
● **Entertainment:** Local societies and, perhaps, your own thoughts

DES JENSON



Above: Malcolm and Mary Whiteside in the magnificently furnished library.
Below left: fit for a family banquet, the 39ft 6in dining room, with tall French doors

Splash of art in the bathroom

Can't find the decorative wall tiles or picture panel you really want? Then why not commission an artist – or make your own

Susan Esterbrook wanted a decorative tile panel for her bathroom but nothing in the shops or catalogues seemed right. So she took the plunge and commissioned a ceramic artist, Paul Scott, to make one from scratch.

In the bathroom she wanted the feeling of slipping into a different world, so the decorative panel of tiles looks like the sea, complete with fish and boats. For added interest, there are some words from the Rupert Brooke fishy poem *Heaven*.

The panel is made up of 500 tiles, is 230cm (about 7ft 6in) high and runs along three sides of the bath.

Mr Scott, the curator of "Hot off the Press", a forthcoming exhibition about ceramics and print at the Crafts Council in London, worked on Mrs Esterbrook's commission over several months.

He first drew the design on paper and then marked out the tile shapes and the grouting lines. Next he photographed the whole piece, cut out all the shapes and used them as templates to cut out the tiles from porcelain.

His minimum charge is £750-£1,000 a square metre but, he says, the larger the budget the more detailed and elaborately glazed a piece can be. Decorative wall panels can be made for most rooms in the house and outside walls, too.

Mr Scott's advice to people considering commissioning is:

Because it is an individual work of art, be mindful of the time it will take.

Make sure you and the artist have agreed on the panel's design, the timetable of events for its execution and the cost.

Whatever you commission, make sure the tiles are suitable for the purpose, especially if they are for outside.

Decorative Tile Works, of Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire, also does commissions, with customers putting forward their own ideas or relying on designers at the firm. The price of a decorative panel varies considerably, but the managing director, Michael Kay, says that one large enough to go behind an Aga cooker — with a decorative element of about one metre square — might be about £1,500-£2,000.

For those who want to learn how to decorate plain ceramic tiles and make panels themselves the company, which has made large numbers of tiles for the Harrods food hall, holds one and two-day workshops most weekends.

A one-day workshop costs £37.50. You have the use of eight tiles which you can decorate as a panel or individually. The mailing of tiles to your home after firing costs £8. Two-day workshops, with 16 tiles, cost £70, plus £10 mailing. The price of a course includes all materials.

One of the techniques you learn at the workshops is how to "pounce". This means pricking out the design on a piece of paper with a sharp needle and then pressing charcoal through the holes to mark the tile. You follow that dotted line when you "tube line" the tile — squeeze clay out of a rubber pouch to form a line. The charcoal dots are burnt away during the firing. The glazing and firing process comes next.

"Most people on a workshop course aim to decorate just three tiles in a day and a six-tile panel over two days. Then they take them away to put up in their homes or give them away as presents," says Mr Kay, adding: "We get some people asking us if the tiles will be all right behind their cookers because of the heat. When you consider at what temperature the tiles have been fired I can't imagine what temperature they must be cooking at."

There is another pleasure in attending a workshop at the Decorative Tile Works: it is housed in what is considered the most complete Victorian tile factory still standing, and in the same premises as the Jackfield Tile Museum, one of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, with its collection of 13,000 Victorian, Art Nouveau and Art Deco tiles.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

ERIC WHITEHEAD

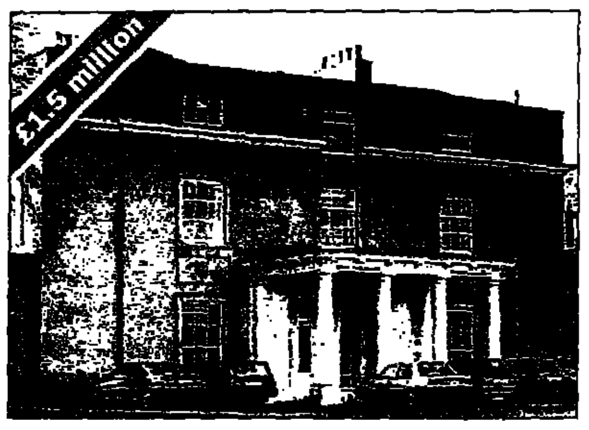
Paul Scott with his design for a decorative tiled bathroom panel which pictures the sea, fish and boats

TILE FILE

- **Decorative Tile Works, 01952 884627 for inquiries about workshops, 01952 884124 for other inquiries.**
- **"Hot off the Press" exhibition, Crafts Council, London (0171-806 2500), March 6-April 20, Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Free.**
- **The reference desk at the Crafts Council is open during gallery opening hours (as above) and has lists of craftmakers and courses.**
- **AXIS (0113-283 3125, email: axis@gn.apc.org) has a visual artists database, the National Artists Register, containing the name of more than 1,900 artists, including those who work with ceramics.**

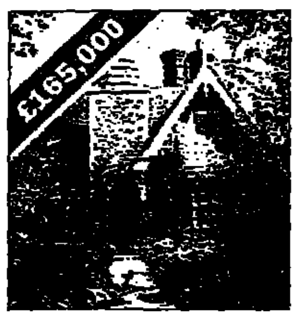
FOR SALE

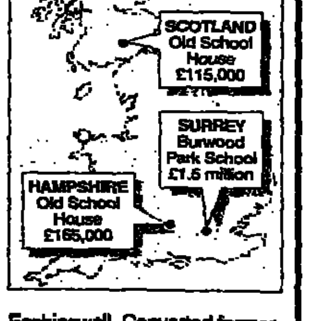
SCHOOL HOUSES



SURREY: Burwood Park School and College, near Walton-on-Thames. Former residential school with a Grade II listed 19th-century mansion and further buildings providing 53,500sq ft of accommodation, in six acres. Detached four-bedroom headmaster's house, modern purpose-built sports hall, garages, workshops and stores. Playing field and tennis court. Offers over £1.5 million (Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171)

SCOTLAND: Old School House, Ettrick, Selkirkshire. Refurbished former schoolhouse with a south-facing walled garden, in the scenic Borders hills. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, kitchen and utility/cloakroom. Garage. Offers over £115,000 (Savills, 0131-226 6961)





HAMPSHIRE: Old School House, Ecchinswell. Converted former school house with a well-stocked garden, in a small village southeast of Newbury, close to the foot of Watership Down. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, kitchen and utility. About £165,000 (John D. Wood, 01635 523225)

CHERYL TAYLOR

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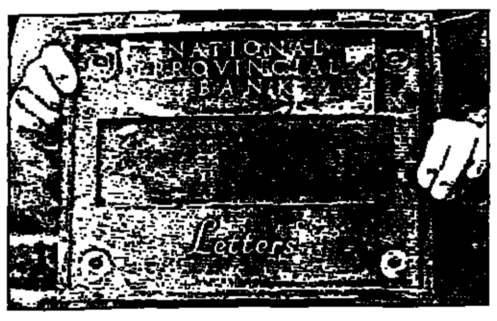
Des res with high interest

Converting a redundant bank into a home can pay dividends for people who want something different

Lynda Teasdale's drinks cabinet is 10ft by 8ft with 2ft-thick walls. *She can only get* to her champagne and spirits through two double-turn key locks, two circle-action door wheels, the weight of an 11in-thick metal door *run through* with six steel bolts and a full-length iron grille.

It's not that Ms Teasdale is mean with the drinks. Until March 1995, her home at Thames Ditton in Surrey, was a NatWest bank, and the drinks cabinet was the bank's vault. "To open the vault, two keys had to be turned simultaneously by two bank employees so that no one person could get to the deed boxes and money bags," Ms Teasdale says.



'The walls are so tough that power tools bounce off them'

"We wanted to open out a vault wall but the builder said it would take a diamond-tipped drill to get through all that reinforced steel."

The shakedown in the banking industry has seen a steady off-loading of redundant banks and Ms Teasdale is among the first wave of buyers to convert one into a home. In 1985, Britain had 14,289 banks, according to the British Bankers' Association. Ten years later there were 10,801.

Professor Philip Molyneux, director of the Institute of European Finance at Bangor, Wales, estimates that by the year 2000 the number of bank branches in Britain will be *down to* 8,000. "With Internet and tele-banking, the sub-contracting of credit-card processing and the regionalisation of back-office operations, *many traditional banking* halls are unnecessary," he says.

"The Lloyds/TSB merger will eventually off-load at least another 300-400 high-street banks on to the property market," he adds.

But most high-street bank *premises* are not suitable for home conversion. Many sit like full stops on corner sites on the edge of busy shopping parades. "Local authorities are *loath to* destroy *shopping* frontage," says Philip Waterfield, a director of Stretton Chartered Surveyors in London's East End. "They *have to maintain the commercial* street scene and they like having the butcher, the baker and candlestick maker." This is why some former bank buildings re-emerge as veterinary or doctors' surgeries or wine bars and pubs (Bass Taverns has stripped out 12 banks in the past two years for their All Bar One pubs).

Mr Waterfield identifies semi-rural branches and others abutting long parades as the most likely to be granted a residential change of use. In this second category, three partial conversions of old banks in east London — St James' Street, E17; East India Dock Road, E14; and Mare Street, E8 — have recently become homes.

Ms Teasdale's former NatWest *branch was* classed as semi-rural because it was detached and next to the Milk Marketing Board headquarters at Thames Ditton, overlooking *Giggs Hill* Green. The 23-acre HQ is now being demolished. Ms Teasdale noticed the bank was for sale and knew that the building — built in 1939 as a National Provincial bank — was not listed.

"I stood on the green one day and said, 'I'm going to live there'," *she* says. "*My partner* said we could turn it into an office, but I thought I'd have it as a house."

A covenant on the property *restricted* future commercial use to banking. Ms Teasdale paid £177,000 for the building in a sealed-envelope bid and wondered what she had done. "I phoned my bank manager and said, 'I've just bought a bank'."

All the windows had iron bars, which have since been removed, including the ones in the double-height banking hall, which had white hanging globe lights (still there). There were two strong rooms, a men's lavatory, a money lift and a Chubb nightsafe, but no kitchen or bathroom.

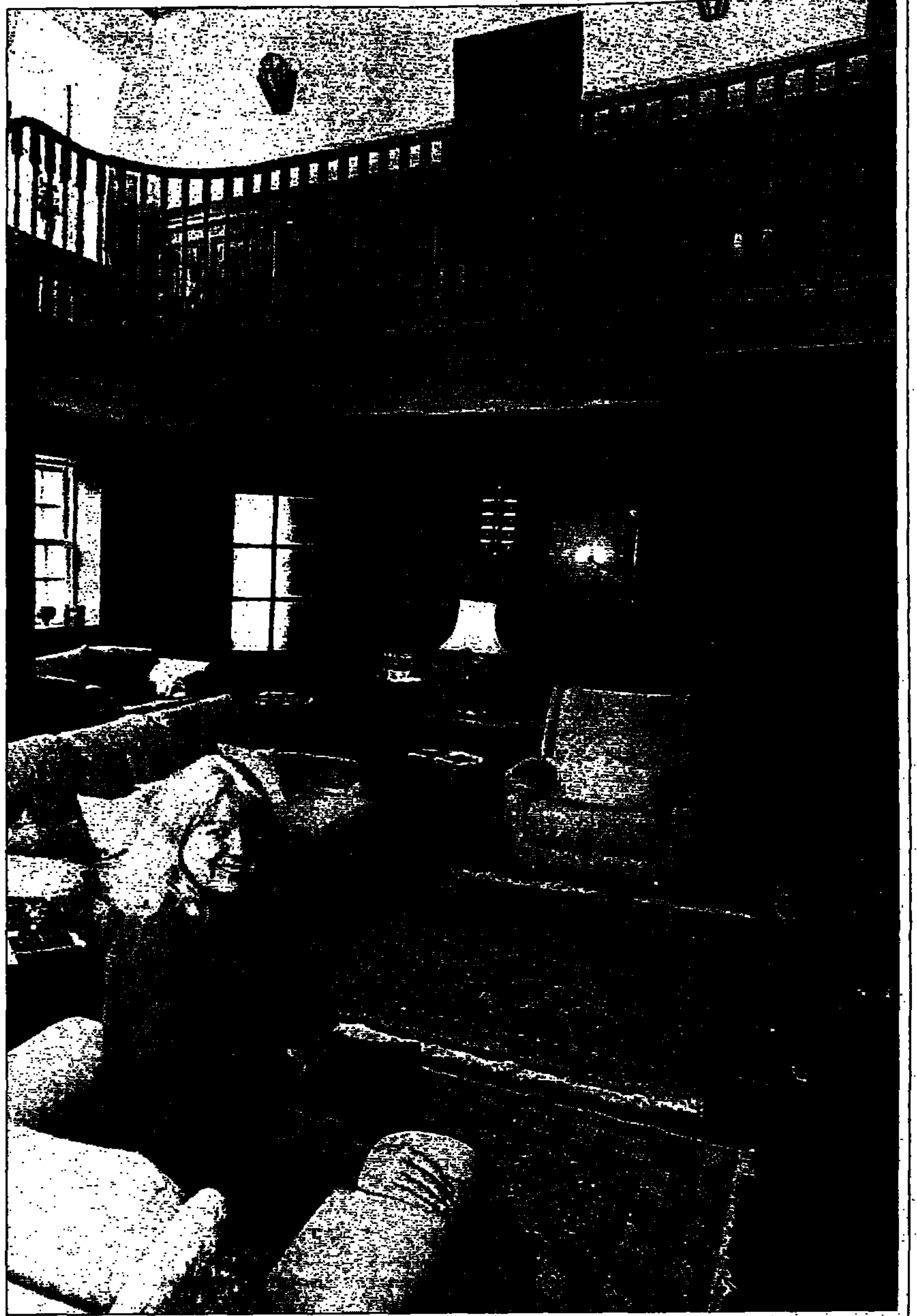
"The walls are so tough that the builders' power tools bounced off them." Ms Teasdale says. "We had to use special screws to put up pictures."

Elmbridge Council, the local authority, approved the bank's change of use and the application went through "very smoothly". "From the village point of view it was much nicer that it was turned into a home," she says.

Ms Teasdale was worried that the bank would not work out as a four-bedroom home. "When we first saw the building it had a commercial feel and was very austere from the outside," she says. "But with all the renovation work it now feels like a house."

ALEX WIJERATNE

TONY WHITE



Lynda Teasdale at home in her former NatWest bank. "It was very austere at first but now it feels like a house".

PROPERTY **NEWS**

Du Maurier house for sale

■ THE birthplace of novelist Daphne du Maurier is for sale. The Grade I listed semi-detached villa at 50 Cumberland Terrace, Regent's Park, central London was built by James Burton, under the direction of John Nash. It has six bedrooms and a courtyard. Price on application. Contact Strutt & Parker, 0171-629 7282.

■ THE rentals market is booming, according to the latest report from agent Hamptons International. The number of transactions in the final quarter of 1996 was 28 per cent higher than the same period in 1995, while the number of properties for rent in London fell by 20 per cent. Only Pimlico bucked the trend, with an 18 per cent increase in properties available. And according to agent Knight Frank, *proximity to* good public transport links can increase rental values by up to 50 per cent in London.

■ THE BBC is looking for period properties as a backdrop to its forthcoming adaptation of *Tom Jones*. Although Strutt & Parker's film location agency has 1,000 rural properties on its books, there is a shortage of country houses close to London to star in the growing number of costume dramas. Star-struck home owners should call 01635 521707 for information.

■ HOUSE prices in Northern Ireland increased by 15.3 per cent last year, according to a report from the University of Ulster and Ulster Bank. The average price of a terraced house rose 23.5 per cent in 1996 while that of a detached bungalow increased by 17.7 per cent.

■ PROPERTY investment funds are turning to residential property, says agent Blenheim Bishop, whose Mayfair division exchanged contracts on £25 million worth of houses in the past ten weeks. Most of these were for investment purposes because the strong lettings market provides high and constant returns.

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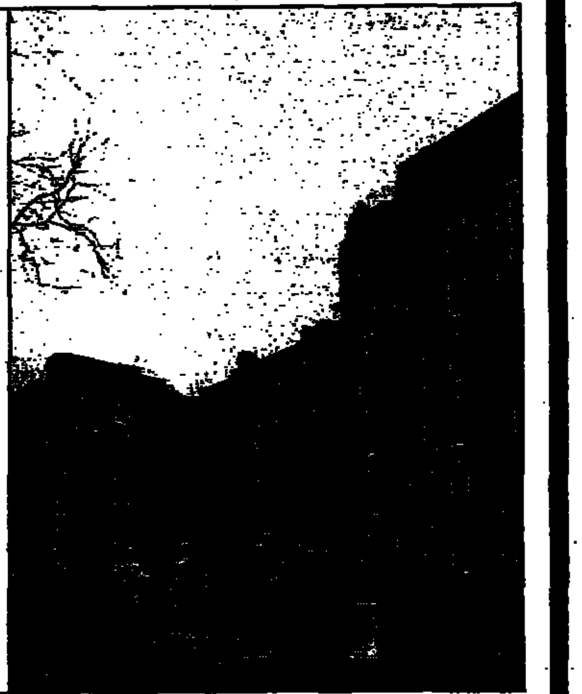

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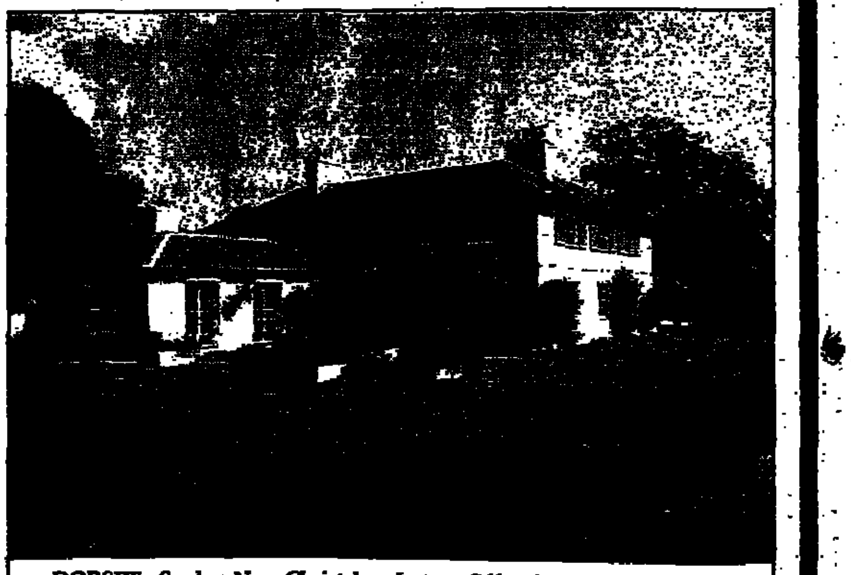

DORSET - Sopley, Near Christchurch Offers in excess of £600,000

A refurbished period house in partly walled grounds on the edge of the village. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4 receps, kitchen, playrm, garaging, swimming pool, garden, paddock. About 1.2 ha (3 acres). A further 2.2 ha (5.5 acres) approx of grazing land may be available separately.

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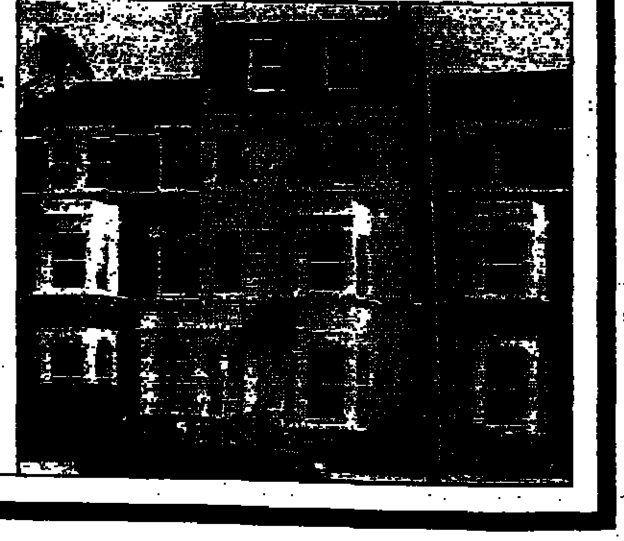

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PROPERTY

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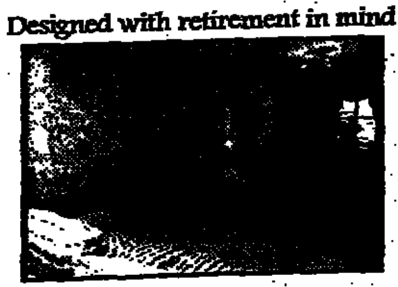

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0171 428 0335

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WC1, 1 bed mans block 5th floor, lift, close to tube £99,950 Banbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

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FITZGEORGE AVE, W14
Spacious 3 bed flat, immac condition in a well maintained mansion block in attractive tree lined Ave close to Barons Ct. W. Kens & Olympia Tube Stations. 3 dble bed (1 with shower room en/suite), 1 lux bathroom, lge recep room, FF kitchen, OSP, CH.
£305,000
0171 602 2589

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BARNES Nr. H'smith Bdy. Lge 1 br flat for 2, balcony. £680pcm. 0181 741 0978.

BARONS COURT W14 Superb newly refurbished 2 bed flat in this excellent purpose built block with parking. Close to tube, rent includes central heating and hot water £265 per week 0831 252525.

LONDON RENTALS

BAYSWATER, Nr park, newly fitted and dec 1st flr 1 bed, recep. k&b, long let and good refs req'd. £280pw. 0171 580 3129.

BRAND NEW SE1 County Hall 2 bed flat, 2 bath with view, luxury furn, pking, gym, pool. £400 pw. 0181 953 8911

CHELSEA SW10. Studio flat, f/f, K & B, lift, porter, entryphone, CH&HW inc. £220pw. 0171 727 7850.

CHELSEA Interior dec, 4 bed 2 bath flat, dble recep, wood flrs, balc. £525 pw. 0171 610 6666

CHISWICK Delightful 3 bed home. Wooden flrs, Shaker Kit, gdn. £350 pw. 0171 586 9842

CITY EC4 Ideal 1 bed pied-a-terre near St Pauls d/w sec £175pw. Also new 1 bedroom £325pw. 0171 253 4414.

COUNTY HALL SE1 A 2 bed, 2 bath apt on the 1st floor of this converted building. Furnished. £350 pw. 0171 928 2406

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FULHAM SW6 A 3 bed attractive house with garden Nr Fulham B'way Tube. Unfurn. £400 pw 0171 734 6406

FULHAM SW6 Stunning 4 bed, 2 bath house, dble recep, wood flrs, kit/diner, garden. Nr Tube. £500 pw. Tel0171 610 6666

FULHAM SW6 A 3 bed, 2 bath end of terrace hse with lge kit/bfast rm, double recept and 20' garden. £575 pw. 0171 736 4406

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KENSINGTON Lux lge 2 bd 2 bth FF pool + gym sec pkg. £425 pw City Lets Int 0171 488 1458

KINGS RD lux lge 2 bd 2 bth FF sec pkg Nr Tube £450 - £550 pw City Lets Int 0171 488 1458

MAIDA VALE lux lge 3 bed 2 bth FF mews hse gge Nr Tube £525 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

MARBLE ARCH 5 min lux lge 3 bd 2 bth FF. lxd new mews hse £525 pw 0171 488 1458

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MOORGATE 5 mins lux lge bed new 2bd 2 bth FF Nr tube £275 pw. City Lets. 0171 488 1458

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SOHO 5 mins lux lge 2 bed 2 bth FF Nr tube £390 pw. City lets Int. 0171 488 1458

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SWISS COTT New int designed 2 + 3 bed apts. Maid service. Long/Short stay fr £350 pw 0171 794 6702/0956 286272

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WESTMIN BGE lux lge new 2 bd 2 bth FF Pool pkg Nr Tube £395 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

WIMBLEDON/Southfield, 2 bed unfurnished ground floor flat. Near A3, Common, tube. £165pw, Tel: 0181 789 4369.

W1 Modern new 2 bed, 2 bath, balcony £400 pw. Lux 1 bed flat. £300 pw. 0171 724 9919

COUNTRY RENTALS

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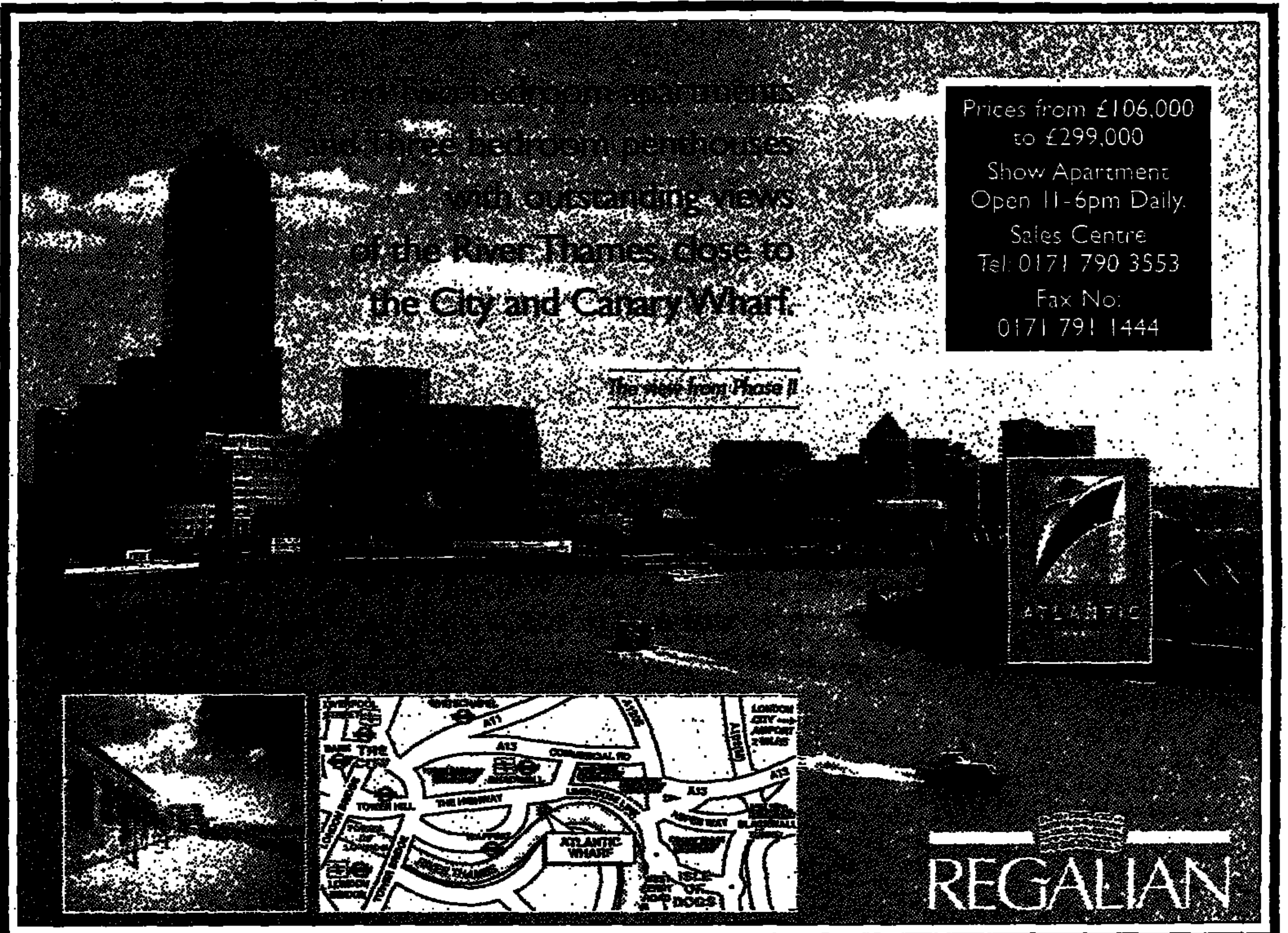

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Club La Costa Sierra Marina	Costa Del Sol	June	2	High	8	2495
CPV at Lubina Sol	Costa Del Sol	Jun/Xmas	2	High	4	895
La Cuquilla	Costa Del Sol	Sept	2	High	6	1295
Kingfisher Club	Costa Del Sol	Float	1	High	4	895
Club Parque Mesa Del Mar	N.Tenerife	Nov	2	High	6	1295
Club Olympus	Tenerife	Dec	1	High	4	995
Island Village	Tenerife	Sept	3	High	4	1195
Quinta Do Lago C.C.	Portugal	Feb	1	Mid	6	1795
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	June	2	High	4	1495
Las Calas 2	Lanzarote	Nov	1	High	4	795
Pueblo Evita Club	Costa Del Sol	Xmas	1	High	6	695
Club La Costa Marina Dorada	Costa Del Sol	Oct	2	High	8	3250
Royal Tenerife Country Club	Tenerife	May	2	High	6	2250
The Kenmore Club	Scotland	June	1	High	6	5750
Kilconquhar Castle	Scotland	Oct	1	High	6	2950
Coylumbridge	Scotland	June	1	High	6	3750
Barrah Forest Hills	Scotland	March	1	High	2	2490
Regency Villas Broome Park	Canterbury	Feb	1	Low	6	695
Charter House Suites	Manchester	Sept	1	High	4	1995
Mallard Club	Scotland	March	1	High	8	2950
Sutton Hall	Yorkshire	May	1	High	4	1595
Club Tenerife	Tenerife	Nov	1	High	4	595
Isle of Bali	Orlando	Oct	2	High	6	2150
Vistana Resort	Orlando	Float	2	High	8	2950
Sunset Harbour	Tenerife	June	2	High	4	1295
Club Riviera Marbella	Costa Del Sol	May	2	High	6	1695
Craigendarroch	Scotland	Feb	1	High	4	2750
The Osborne	Torquay	May/Sept	3	High	5/6	3250
Woodford Bridge	Devon	Float	1	Mid	4	1495
Paradise Club	Tenerife	Feb	2	High	6	3150
Montechoro beach Club	Portugal	July	1	High	6	3750
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Gone fishing and I may be some time

Forget golf, in Russia the obsessive male pastime is ice-fishing, leaving thousands of angling widows home alone

With the slow, deliberate movements of a veteran, Sasha trudged across the vast expanse of snow and ice stretched out before him and selected a desolate spot near the shoreline for his afternoon's battle against the fish and the elements. Placing the tip of a man-size metal corkscrew on the frozen river surface he began drilling a neat circular hole in the ice before finally dipping his line, hook and bait into the dark icy waters below.

"This is one of life's great pleasures," said the beaming Muscovite, perched on a tiny stool, his legs stretched out either side of the hole in a position favoured by the ice-fishing fraternity. Like dozens of other men dotted on the bleak winter landscape, Sasha had sneaked off work early on Friday for what promised to be a solitary weekend. Huddled against the wind on the Moscow river he only had other serious-minded fishermen for company, a dour and motley group who rarely exchanged more than a nod or a grunt of recognition.

"Here you forget the problems of work, the problems at home, the nagging wife," he said, shrugging off the minus 10C of cold. "You are alone to collect your thoughts. It is bliss."

While this form of escapism may sound a little desperate, given that it involves hours spent in below-freezing temperatures often catching inedible fish, for tens of thousands of Russians ice-fishing has become an obsession. Visit any fishing shop in the country and there is usually a throng of ice-fishing addicts swapping stories and tips and stocking up on the extensive equipment needed not only to catch fish but to survive to tell the tale.

Nikolai Ivanchekov, a weekend enthusiast, explained that unlike in North America, where ice-fishermen live in heated wooden huts, with television and cooker, the Russian variety are a much hardier bunch. "The most important part of the kit is clothing. You need a thick coat, with hood, a fur hat, felt boots, waders, gloves, a thermos for coffee and a bottle of vodka, not so much that you get drunk, but just enough to keep out the cold," he said, insisting that it was a matter of some pride among Russian ice-fishermen that they only did their real drinking after the fishing was over.

Once you have overcome the problems of dress, the rest is fairly straightforward. Russian ice-fishermen use a tiny fishing rod and reel and bait their hooks with red maggots which they dip gently up and down to attract the fish, normally perch, roach and bream. Another essential tool is a ladle to scoop up the pieces of ice which form in the fishing hole. One distinct and unpleasant characteristic of Russian ice-fishing is the need to keep the maggots alive in sub-zero temperatures by placing the bait box carefully under an armpit for warmth.

Even though the majority of Russians, particularly women, do not comprehend how so many of their countrymen can waste the few precious hours of winter sunlight on such a futile pursuit, for enthusiasts it is worth the sacrifice and the considerable dangers.

Although ice-fishing may look safe, even boring, the fluctuations in temperature and the movement of ice flows claim lives every year in Russia. Fishermen are regularly swept out to sea or fall through the ice and drown. Already this winter six men were dragged off into the Gulf of Finland on an icefloe and are presumed dead. More incidents are likely in the spring when many fishermen miscalculate the speed of the thaw and pay with their lives.

Earlier this year 75 anglers fishing on Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest lake 100 miles north of St Petersburg, were swept away on a sheet of ice half a mile square. Although the fishermen were stranded for nine hours in temperatures which dropped to minus 17C before they were rescued, the men remained unperturbed by the experience and showed no signs of wanting to give up. Even as the rescue helicopters hovered above, anglers could be seen below carrying on with their fishing.

MOSCOOP

Ice-fishing is a dangerous business and Russian anglers are regularly swept out to sea or fall through the ice and drown

Mikhail Kalinsky, one of the rescue workers, said: "Usually they take enough vodka to keep warm for a few days, so nobody had to go to hospital for exposure. I don't think some of them even realised the trouble they were in. Common sense is not a characteristic one attributes to most ice-fishermen."

This foolhardy attitude has caused a backlash among non-fishermen who want to charge anglers for being rescued, particularly those repeat offenders who have to be saved every winter at taxpayers' expense.

"It would be nice if we did not have to waste our time saving these people, but there is not much we can do about it," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Emergency Situations. "None of them could afford to pay the cost of a helicopter rescue and fining them would probably not be a deterrent. They are rather like icy roads or the flu, just an unpleasant part of the Russian winter."

Raisa Lipotskaya, the wife of an angler who was rescued last month, said there was no use trying to dissuade Ivan, her 63-year-old husband, from venturing out again. "He has been in this situation twice before, so I knew who to call when he was late coming home," she told the *St Petersburg Times*. "There is no way to stop him. He is an incurable ice-fisherman." Her only consolation was that he was good at his hobby. "At least he brought back a couple of big ones," she said.

Richard Beeston

A VET WRITES

Q **I have just had to have my lovely collie put to sleep, aged 12. The vet said he had Cushing's syndrome and diabetes. Can you explain Cushing's simply please? My vet tried to but it seemed complicated and I was too upset to take it in.**

A Cushing's syndrome is a malfunction of the adrenal glands — two tiny organs alongside the kidneys which secrete several hormones. It occurs when some of them are produced in excess. This happens if there's a tumour in the adrenal gland, or because hormones from the pituitary gland overstimulate the adrenals. Prolonged use of corticosteroid type medicines can trigger Cushing's syndrome. Treatment is not satisfactory and there is nothing that can be done to prevent it. You were right to put your dog to sleep. You couldn't offer him an acceptable life.

Q **Our seven-year-old labrador has suffered from interdigital cysts for several years. We have seen eight vets and he's had all sorts of treatments but to no avail. The cysts burst and disappear, but another one starts before long. He's always licking his feet. He was fed on dry food, but we have just changed it to meat and fish plus biscuit meal because a dog breeder said he might be allergic to maize in the all-in-one dry food. Can you suggest anything?**

A Interdigital cysts are abscesses between the toes, often starting in the sweat glands. Your labrador cannot cope with those bacteria which live on every dog's skin, without causing trouble. This failure is not likely to be related to an allergy or diet. A vaccine can be made from cultures taken from a cyst and injected to stimulate the dog's defences. Bathing his feet every day with an antiseptic shampoo might reduce the amount of infection. Stay with one vet. He knows what has been tried. A complete cure is unlikely but you can make your dog's life better — if not cyst free.

James Allcock

● *Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

He may be balding, pop-eyed, big headed and positively freakish, but I still love him. Looks aren't everything when it comes to pets

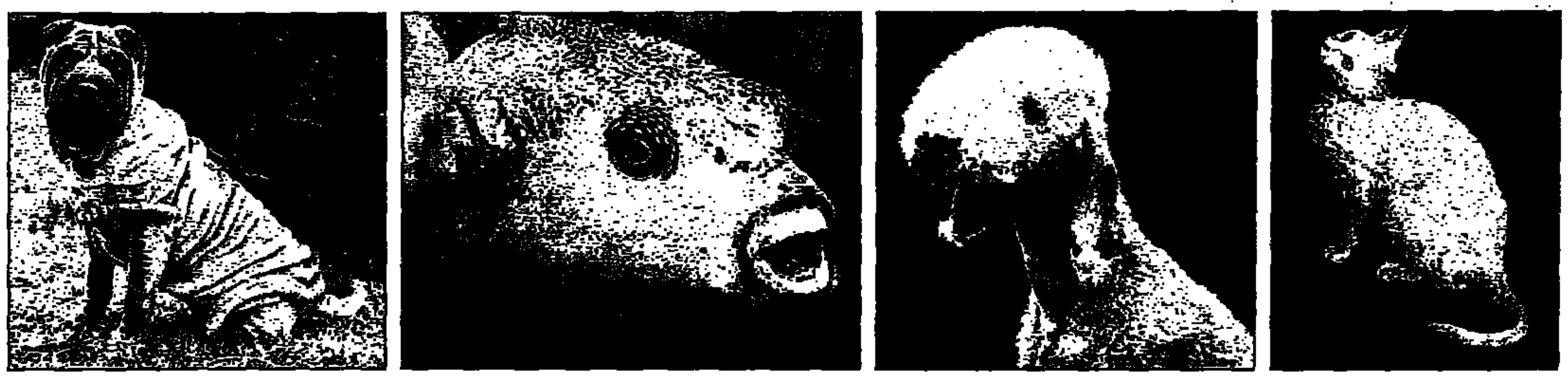
How much is that ugly in the window?

If you've ever looked at those ugli fruit in the supermarket and thought "Aah", we may have just the pet for you. Some people — the biggest hearted and most well-balanced the theory goes — just love to cuddle creatures which are pulchritudinally challenged.

Ugliness is only skin deep. Ask anyone who likes to snuggle up to their Shar-Pei. They are the big wrinkly dogs who never grow into their skins, which look like a relief map of the Himalayas. They look terribly worried, probably because they fear the huge owner of their skin may want it back at any moment.

There is a fine line between the ugly and the revolting. Snakes, rats and tarantulas may be revolting, to some of us at any rate, but they're not ugly. Uglies are those who differ from some expected norm for their species.

Top of the uglies' list for Beverley Cuddy, editor of *Dogs Today*, is the Chinese Crested, a tiny dog which needs very little exercise and a lot of grooming to maintain its coiffure. "It's all My Little Pony on the top," Ms Cuddy says. "The rest is hairless, just warm skin."



The Shar-Pei's coat is too big for him, the dogface puffer swells up when stressed, the Bedlington looks like a lamb and the Cornish Rex is balding

She's not too keen either on the Bedlington terrier, a smallish dog which looks like a lamb. Some might find it pretty, but that just proves that ugliness is in the eye of the beholder. After all, I don't know how anyone can love a bull terrier. Shouldn't dogs be cuddly? But you — and Bill Sykes — may disagree.

Cat owners are touchy about ugliness. Joan Moore, editor of *Cat World*, denies that there is such a thing as an ugly cat, though some would nominate the rather bald Devon and Cornish rexes. "Whatever a cat may look like, it moves with such grace that no one could describe it as ugly." Ms Moore says.

Ugliness is rarely natural. Take the celestial bubble-eye goldfish, a Japanese creation. Andrew Eade, technical editor of *Practical Fishkeeping*, says: "The bubble-eye has been bred to be viewed from above, so their eyes are set upwards. And where you'd expect an eye there's a fluid-filled sack."

Mr Eade enthuses too about puffer fish, which inflate themselves when stressed. "Then there's the cow fish, which looks like a Brussels sprout with a couple of cocktail sticks in it — an endearing little critter," he says.

The cow fish is bright yellow with blue spots, which would be even more worrying in a sprout, and can grow up to 16 inches long. The horns protect it from being eaten. As if you'd ever try.

Mr Eade's favourite ugly is the chameleon. Not because of its warty, leathery skin — that's the nature of the reptile — but because of its eyes. "They move independently. It's very strange. He can look where he's going and where he's been," he says.

Keith Evans, a psychologist with an interest in people's relationships with animals, says: "If someone chooses something, it has a link with an inner reflection of something they connect to.

"Someone might choose, say, a Shar-Pei because the wrinkling is cute. He wants a comforter, not just an animal — it's the teddy bear complex. Others feel sorry for the dog. They identify with an appearance which is not socially acceptable and they want to be a rescuer," Mr Evans says.

"It's a bit like people. We fall in love for a variety of reasons: it may be for someone's personality in reality or for someone's personality in our perception. People buy animals because they perceive that the outward appearance defines the personality. It is a dangerous assumption.

"With fish, which are essentially for display, there may be an elitist element. If I have got something which is different it will make me more interesting. Someone with low self-esteem may buy an animal which says something about them."

It's worth bearing in mind that many uglies have been bred with a disregard for their comfort. Shar-Pei may suffer skin problems and in-turned eyelids. Many fancy goldfish suffer constipation. It may be kinder to encourage the production of ugli fruit. Though you might have problems keeping the lead on.

Jill Parkin

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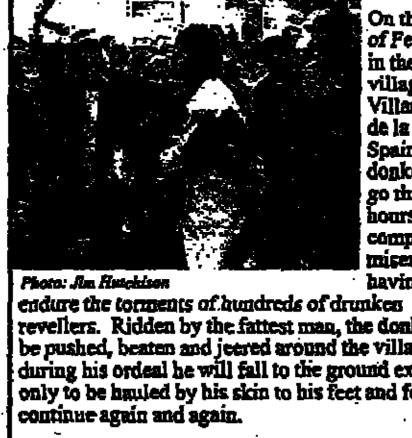

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Photo: Jim Hutchison
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'If our eyes are the windows to our soul, our windows are other people's eyes into our squalor . . . and at present we are cleanerless'

Fairies aren't what they used to be

LIFE AND SOUL

GINNY DOUGARY

My husband was once a cleaning lady. Little Fairies, the company he worked for in New York, supplied him with a white pinny and a dinky pannier of Day-Glo dusters, before dispatching him to swanky addresses on the Upper East Side. His employers ranged from a bohemian Waynetta Slob, whose brownstone apartment was so mired in filth it took him a day to clean it, to a dream woman who kept her place spotless because she never appeared to live in it. Interestingly — in the light of our present predicament — he charged both clients the same rate.

For my part, I once worked as chambermaid in a posh hotel. The high point was cleaning the suite of a now-deceased major-league Hollywood heart-throb. We're talking James Mason, Gregory Peck, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Sad to report, the glamorous heroes of major motion pictures have exactly the same habits as lesser men: huge deposits of hair in bath, basin, bidet; toilet training leaves a lot to be desired. Personal hygiene can be a great leveller.

If our eyes are the windows to our soul, our windows are other people's eyes into our squalor — and *our* house is looking very squalid indeed. The spare room is covered with mountainous ranges of unironed washing; tidemarks are appearing on the baths; dust is gathering on every surface. Adelaide left us two weeks ago, and we are cleanerless. This we hope is a temporary disaster. A new Mintel survey reveals that paid help in the home has become the fastest growing area of consumer spending — the British middle classes spend an amazing £4 billion on keeping our households running smoothly, four times as much as ten years ago — and we have no intention of bucking the national trend.

What this growth in consumer spending means is that cleaners and nannies and gardeners have become increasingly picky about who they work for. Proving that you are a presentable employer, if our experience is anything to go by, is a devilishly tricky business. The "help", or the "lady that does", has turned into a Sir John Gielgud butler: "Never mind *my* references, sir, what about yours?" — which explains why so many of the ads in *The Lady* sign off with the desperate legend, "Nanny recommends". (Incidentally, at the very apex of the industry, there may be only 90 butlers in the country, but the pay and the conditions seem pretty good — as much as £40,000, plus an executive-style package, including free cars and private medical insurance.)

Some women have enough time on their hands to clean their houses in order to impress their cleaners. This has always struck me as profoundly pointless; a bit like washing your hair before visiting the hairdresser or going on a diet before a stomach tuck. Adelaide took one look at our kitchen (unclean but not monstrously so) on her first visit, and pronounced, with some hauteur: "I can see that there is much to do in this house." On her third visit, she wanted to bump up her rates from £6 to £7 an hour.

I said I'd get back to her, but she got back to me, and left a jingly little message on the answering machine: "Hello, Miss Ginny. I won't be working for you any more. I got another job. *Much* more money and *much* less work. Loved your children. Byeeee."

The upsurge in demand for domestic service is directly related to the increased numbers of double-income families. There was a time when certain shrill voices, often in the liberal press, chastised women who worked in the office for employing women who worked in their homes. Why these barbs were only aimed at the wives, not the husbands, I was never able to work out. Same old story, I suppose. But we are all workers now and the old divisions and snobberies no longer apply. 'Our boys' nanny employed her own cleaner and, when she gave up her full-time job with us, she cleaned the homes of other nannies. She buys flowers from a pair of women with cut-glass accents and velvet *hairbands* who deliver door-to-door. But then, all the flower sellers around us — come to think of it — could teach Professor Higgins a thing or two about elocution.

Next week, a husband-and-wife team are coming to sort us out. I can't wait for the return of order: the neat piles of crisply pressed laundry, the beds with their perfectly plumped pillows and rippleless duvets, the uplifting smell of polish and the sight of gleaming basins. In the meantime, our nanny is supervising us while we clean, giving us tips on how to take shortcuts and achieve the same pristine results. It is a revelation. But, however hard we may try, we fail to meet her rigorous requirements.

Unfortunately, my husband no longer cleans like a little fairy, and I never acquired the magic touch.

Someone to watch over me

Matthew, the youngest

Never mind the gap – a much older sibling can be your best friend, says **Ann Treneman**

TONY WHITE

Liz Simpson and her brother Michael only got to know each other properly in adult life

Liz Simpson is 42. She is an author and magazine journalist who lives in Kent. Her favourite television show is *Inspector Morse* and she likes baroque music. Michael Alexander is 32 and a landscape gardener in south London. He likes *The Simpsons* and Britpop. Matthew is 23 and a hairdresser in Liverpool. He loves *Frasier* and Paul Weller.

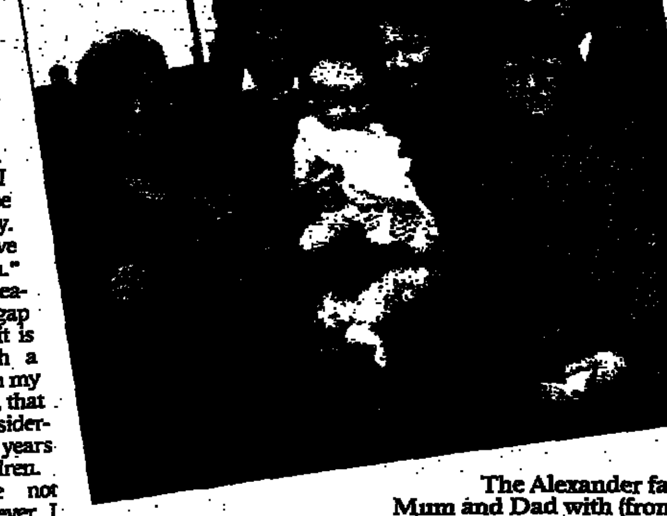
On the face of it these three people have little in common but, before you agree, look at their faces again. They may have all arrived in different decades — 1954, 1964 and 1973 to be precise — but they were all born to the same mother and father. They are siblings and, despite the conventional wisdom about gap children, they do have something in common: each other.

The subject of birth and order and siblings has attracted an army of researchers. We know that first-borns are driven and competitive. Middle children are constantly seeking an identity while the youngest can be babied to the point where they believe adoration is a normal state of affairs. Only children are more likely to be self-confident, self-possessed and self-sufficient.

But what about gap children? "You won't find much on that because with an age gap of ten years there is none of the normal rivalry you find in siblings separated by two, three or four years. Their lives are not intertwined," says Dr Richard Woolfson, author of *Sibling Rivalry*. "So psychologically it is not seen as very interesting."

Mums and dads planning their families find it very interesting indeed though, and most decide to have their children fairly close together. "I want them to be friends," they say. "They need to have someone to play with." But there are also pleasures to having a gap sibling and perhaps it is because I have such a close relationship with my youngest sister, Mary, that I did *not* mind a considerable gap of eight years between my own children.

Gap siblings are not friends early on, however. I was 12 when my sister Mary was born, and her arrival barely registered. Similarly when Michael Alexander arrived, his sister Liz was ten and intent on getting on with her own life (as well as with her two other brothers closer to her own age). By the time Matthew came along, she was 19 and ready to fly the nest. "Frankly, his birth did not impact upon my life in any way. Matthew was born in May and I left home in August to go to London."



The Alexander family: Mum and Dad with (from left) Michael, John, baby Matthew, Liz and Stuart

Michael has only the foggiest childhood memories of Liz — "I remember her cooking the meals and that was probably my only recollection of her until she left home" — while Matthew remembers a fleeting visitor to their Lancashire home. He says: "I was closest to Michael. I think he moved out when I was 11 and so he was the one I shared the house with the longest." Birth order has a tremendous effect on our lives but this can be much more subtle with gap children.

Frank Sulloway, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and author of *Born to Rebel*, a book about birth order traits, says: "You could say that without knowing information about age gaps, birth order information is totally irrelevant. The age gap is part of what you meant by birth order." The impact of birth order is at its maximum when there is a gap of three to four years. Anything closer and the siblings are practically equals. Anything farther and they are too removed to react strongly. With gap siblings, though, traits can get mixed up. Matthew may be the youngest, for instance, but in many ways he may be like an only child or a first born.

Then there is the first born who thinks they are an only child. "Technically with a gap of six years or more the first born becomes very close to becoming an only child. They grew up and had much of their personality formed before they ever had a sibling," he says. The US President Bill Clinton is a good example: he was ten before his brother came along. Would history have been different if the gap was smaller?

Mr Sulloway is a gap sibling himself. "I have a brother who *is* nine years younger. I consider myself a functional last born. There was just no rivalry on my part with my younger brother. He was so much younger it was like having a toy in the house. It is not the same thing."

Without a shared childhood, gap children often go their own way for years, if not decades, before discovering each other. I did not get to know my sister Mary properly until I was at least 30 and she was 18. This was also true for the Alexander family. When Michael was 15, his older sister invited him to London for a visit. "This is when we began to reacquaint ourselves," says Michael. They are doing so again now that they both have (non-gap) families of their own. "In the past two or three years we've become a lot closer," he says.

Could it be that as adults we find it easier to get along with non-competitive siblings? I can usually predict what my other sisters are thinking but I can never assume anything when it comes to Mary. She grew up at another time. My mother was different by then too. It is fun to just enjoy the gap and not constantly try to bridge it. Matthew understands what this means. "I look up to Liz because of what she has achieved, even though we don't have that bond from the early years."

It still comes as a surprise to Liz how much younger her brother is. She recently realised that his girlfriend's mother was her age. "I don't think of myself in terms of my age. I feel as much as a sister to Michael and Matthew as I do to my other brothers."

Liz sees much of herself in her youngest brother. "We are peas in a pod. Personality-wise he is incredibly like me and it is almost like watching a rerun of my own career. It is interesting that after 19 years you get two people who are so alike." Yet it is possible that, as a gap child, Matthew has many traits of a first born. Perhaps it is not so strange after all that he and his first born siter have so much in common — finally.

Millennium message works well

Ruth Gledhill enjoys a new act of worship for the year 2000

THE journalist from the *Daily Mail* looked faintly astonished. We had been to what we thought was a press conference to launch a service which marks the churches' countdown to the millennium, only to find ourselves at a real, live, act of worship. The only disappointment was that there was no sermon. Perhaps the Millennium Group of Churches Together in England, the ecumenical group responsible, thought that a sermon on top of hymns, prayers, the *Gloria*, Bible readings and the Lord's Prayer would be too much for a bunch of journalists on a Monday morning.

The priest was good, almost too good in fact. He turned out to be the Rev Tenniel Evans, fresh from playing an 18th-century vicar in the National Theatre's recent production of John O'Keefe's *Wild Oats*. Mr Evans, a white-haired cherubic figure, reassured me that he was a genuine as well as an acting priest, a non-stipendiary minister who trained in the Oxford diocese. He is one of an increasing number of non-stipendiary clergy who seek ordination in later life, going on quietly to act out their Christian mission in their work or their retirement.

"In these last days you have spoken to us by your Son; and we who have heard his voice, have heard you," went the responsorial prayer before the reading from Isaiah 65. "See, I am creating new heavens and a new Earth! The past will no more be remembered nor will it ever come to mind."

We were at Inter-Church House, the headquarters of Churches Together near Waterloo in southeast London, for the launch of a service for use on the Sunday after Easter this year, which is exactly 1,000 days before January 1, 2000. Hundreds of churches of all denominations have pledged to use it, and more are expected to follow suit. It has arisen out of concern that the Government, through the Millennium Commission, is investing millions in marking the millennium through a range of projects, and that the primary reason for it — that it is the anniversary of the birth of Christ — is in danger of being lost.

Our epistle was from 1 John 1. "Here is the message we have heard from him and pass on to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to be sharing in his life while we go on living in darkness, our words and our lives are a lie," we heard. "If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and the truth is not in us." My secular journalist's soul wriggled uncomfortably and we moved on to the most effective part, the intercessions. With a beautiful *Taizé* chant, *Wait for the Lord*, as the response, and the surrounding silence in the chapel complete, Mr Evans led us in the prayer. "We live in a world shaped by words and images, where often the whisper of mercy is drowned by the noise of contempt," he said. "We pray for artists and writers, whose words and pictures linger in our minds, that they may show the truth that sets us free."

I read from the service sheet that the offering was next. "We dare not offer worship that has cost us nothing. With these gifts we bring to you all that we are and all that you have made us," it said. I reached for a pound coin, but evidently it had been decided that, like a sermon, this would be too much for journalists and we skipped to the Lord's Prayer and a final hymn.

The strange thing was that, despite initial scepticism, it seemed to work. I came away thinking there might be something Christian about the millennium after all.

- *1000 Days to the Millennium — A Service of Preparation, £3 inc p&p, from Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN (0171-340 0276).*

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PRIEST: The Rev Tenniel Evans

SERMON: None, although organisers afterwards answered our theological queries about their plans for the millennium.

ARCHITECTURE: Modern with shocking cross. ★★★

MUSIC: A group led us in a traditional hymn and the evocative Nigerian chant *Come, Holy Spirit, come*. ★★★

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AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Sandwich feast. ★★★★

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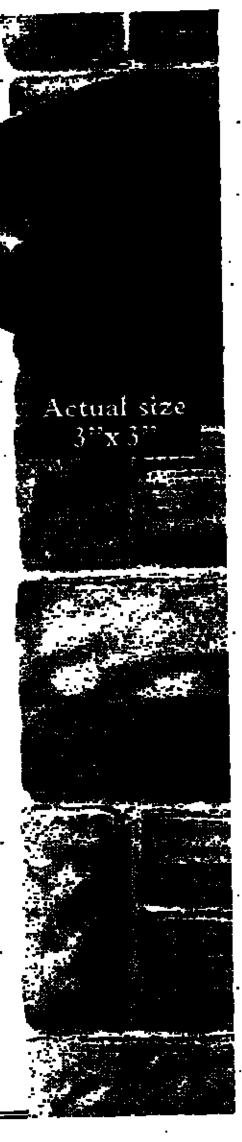

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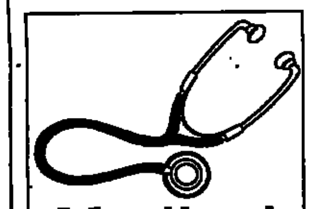

Medical Research

One of the latest methods

- "Whatever the exact mechanism, Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation is a powerful tool for relieving pain" Crosbie J. McConnel J., Bds (1993)
Key issues in muscular skeletal physiotherapy. P81.
Butterworth-Heinemann Oxford.

- "The importance of TeNS as an analgesic technique especially in the control of pain has been confirmed. Doubts about the clinical efficiency of TeNS have been dismissed". Johnson M.I., Ashton C.H., Thompson J.W., (1992)
The clinical use of TeNS - Journal of Orthopaedic Medicine No. 1,3-12.

- "TeNS should be considered as a simple, safe and reusable first line treatment for many pain conditions. It can be used long-term with no risk of serious adverse effects.
Johnson M.I., Ashton C.H., Thompson J.W., (1992)
Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine Vol. 85, 267-268.

- "Electrical stimulation is a clinically established method of relieving pain"...................
Pain Relief Foundation, Walton Hospital, Liverpool

- Professor Ashton of Newcastle University ran tests comparing the results of using TeNS and comparing it with Aspirin. Her work showed that TeNS had a more significant effect on the nerves being studied.

- In another study Professor Ashton found that TeNS was effective in controlling cold induced pain. Patients placed their arm in buckets of ice after using TeNS - the study found they could tolerate more pain after using TeNS.

- A study at the University of Miami found that TeNS in addition to being useful in short term, had a long term benefit for pain sufferers. This group also found improved function and quality of life as well as reduced use of medicines.

- There have been over 200 research studies published worldwide on TeNS since 1991.

- The University of Colorado found that. 83% of Patients experienced fair to excellent relief with only 17% being considered "failures".

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BLOCKING THE PATHWAY TO PAIN

One of the latest methods of controlling pain that seems to bring considerable relief to many relies on the 'gate theory' first propounded in the 1950s by British neuroanatomist, Patrick Wall and Canadian psychophysiologist Ronald Melzack. After spending ten years researching the subject at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, Wall and Melzack concluded that our recognition of the sensation of pain involves two types of nerve fibre, each of which sends conflicting messages to the brain via the spinal cord.

Apparently, one type of fibre carries the 'hurt' or pain message to the brain, while the other, thicker type is capable of acting in a contradictory way by blocking out (or erecting a gate to) the 'hurt' signal, thereby preventing its transmission to the brain.

In fact, acupuncture and pain-killers both work on this 'gate' theory to alleviate pain. As does Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TeNS), which is now being employed with increasing success in NHS Hospitals and Clinics throughout the UK. Utilising precisely the same effective principle, researchers found that TeNS produces an intense stimulation which activates an area of the brain which, in turn, inhibits the pathways that transmit pain signals. Although it is not a cure, TeNS is now accepted by the medical profession as being of significant benefit to many in controlling any kind of physical pain. While TeNS has a remarkably wide range of applications - it has proven to be successful in alleviating pain associated with a variety of ailments - it seems to work better when the area of pain is localised rather than general.

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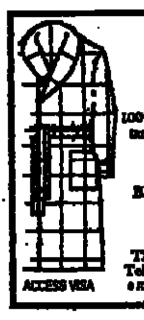

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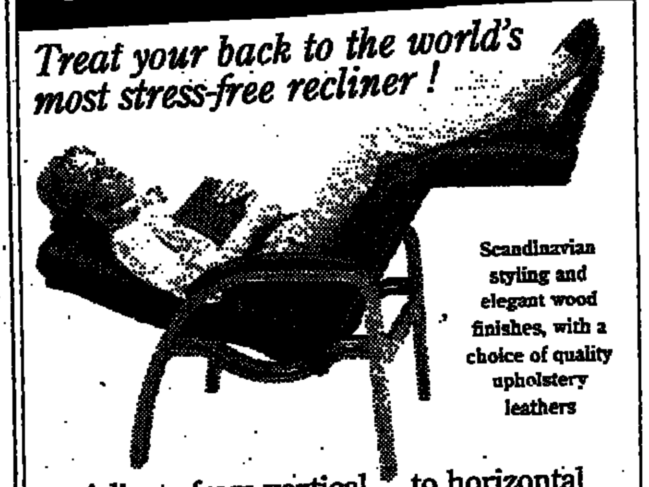

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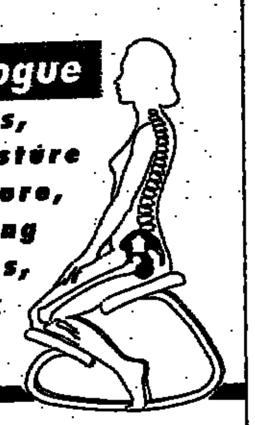

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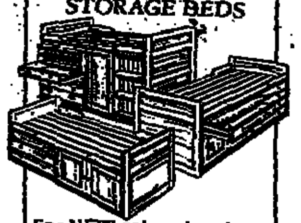

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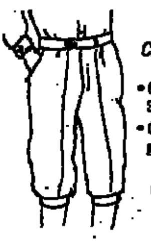

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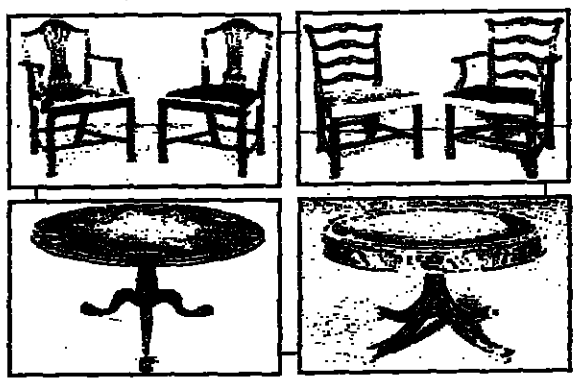

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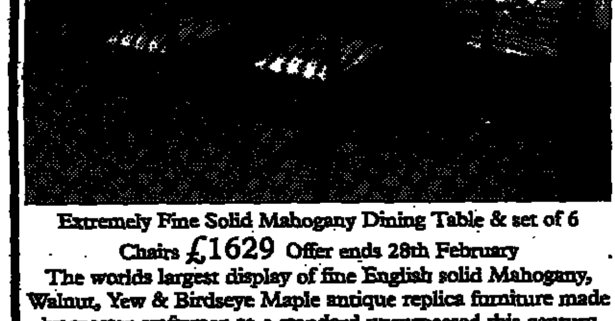

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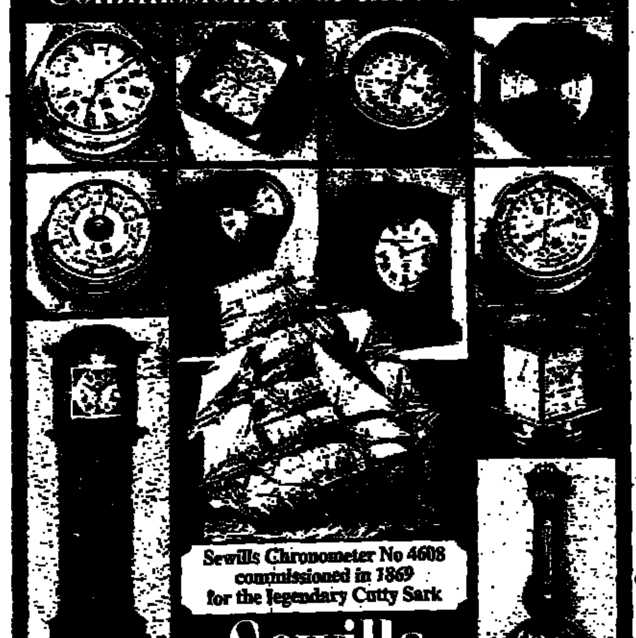

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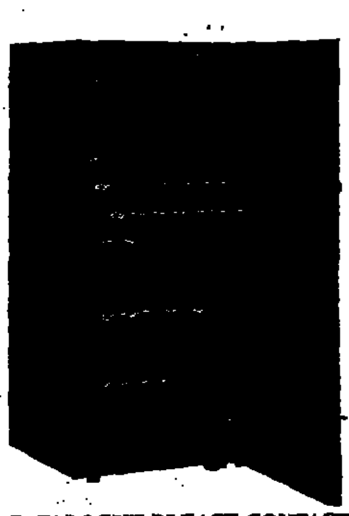

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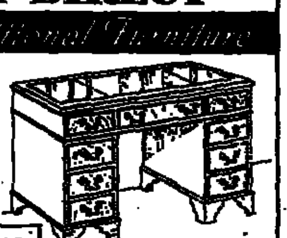

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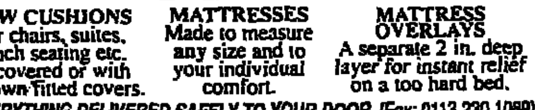

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by

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TRAVEL CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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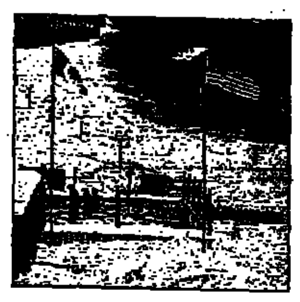


Rocky road to being a better skier
Canada · 18

THE TIMES travel

Hideaways in Cyprus, Corfu and Rhodes
The Med · 16-17

Time to hunt around snooty Ooty

Transfixed for ever in the Indian sunshine, members of the Ootacamund Hunt pose for the camera. Set high in the Nilgiri Hills, Ootacamund offered Raj officers an escape from the summer heat of Madras

If you look carefully, Ootacamund still has fading relics of our imperial rule, says **Stephen McClarence**

Just after breakfast (porridge and poached eggs), Mr Smith drops a bombshell. "I am afraid," he says, smiling gravely, "there is no one darning socks in Ooty at the moment." He waggles his head apologetically from side to side, straightens the Meal Order Forms ("Adequate Notice Essential") and wraps himself in his thick woollen shawl. It is a moment of silent embarrassment. Ooty (Ootacamund) had seemed just the right old-fashioned imperial place for darning.

High in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, the Queen of British Hill Stations once offered an escape for officers and administrators sweltering through the summer heat of Madras. It had a unique appeal for the British, with its rolling downs and its gentle streams. Generations of visitors have made the 7,000ft climb through dazzling green paddy fields, tea estates and coconut plantations. They have settled back on trim verandas, sipped their gins and talked about snooty Ooty.

"A curious place is Ooty," noted Edward Lear on an 1874 sketching tour, half a century after the Brits had first arrived. "Houses stuck all about the hills and trees everywhere ... but so English as to be, I think, utterly undrawable." He drew it, all the same, after a fortifying breakfast of beefsteak and claret.

The Englishness is still there at Regency Villa, the hotel run by Mr Smith with his fastidious charm and his thick woollen shawl. His grandparents came over from England to set up a chain of department stores in Madras and, after a lifetime in the hotel business (he discreetly mentions meeting the Queen, Vivien Leigh and Clint Eastwood), he has ended up here.

He maintains the Regency, high on a hill beyond West Down Bungalow, Blackwood Cottage and the Graduate Tiffin Room, as a perfect period place. Once a hunting lodge for maharajas' guests, pots of geraniums and nasturtiums cluster round the doors, fuchsias droop across the windows and, inside, the walls are graced by mildewed maharajas, 1920s society beauties photographed by the Sunbeam Studio, and many pictures of the Ooty Hunt. They ride out of one frame and into another — Mr Smail and Lieutenant-Colonel Dennistown with their canes and their shooting sticks and their snifters and their hounds, blinking in the bright dawn light for another year's photo.

As we arrive, Ramu, the houseboy, unlocks bedroom after bedroom, each larger than the last and packed with cane chairs, oil-lamps, one-bar radiators, hot water bottles in white linen covers, musty mothballed wardrobes and overall shabby gentility. We settle for a vast bay-windowed room with candlewick bedspreads, a tassled 1930s standard lamp and a view down the drive framed by grazing cows and the occasional passing cyclist. It could be Hertfordshire, 1932.

As the evening draws in, the 40-watt bulbs flicker and fade and we light candles and settle down to dinner (curried eggs) with the edges of the room in darkness. During coffee, there is an urgent tapping on the door and a wild-eyed man bursts in. "I am Gopal the cook, sir," he announces, his curry-stained apron tight around his middle and his head wrapped in a scarf. He hovers for a moment, flashes a manic smile and backs out. We occasionally see him following the cats up the hill to watch the sunset.

> Mildewed photos of maharajas grace the hotel's walls

The Regency is a precious link with old Ooty. The town is changing. True, the dogs still bark on the tea terraces and the mountains still shimmer a misty blue and the moon is still a thin white smile in the sky. The pine and the eucalyptus still scent the air and the cowbells clang up the valley, but the town has degenerated into noisy bazaars and choking traffic fumes.

The elderly expats who stayed on after independence have gone. The genteel bridge parties are no more. Spencers shop, famed for its Wensleydale cheese, is now a computer showroom. Even the town's name has been changed to Udhagamandalam, a mouthful which most ignore.

But they still have the flower show and the dog show, and the Ooty Club still survives up its long and intimidating drive. The walls are covered with motheaten jackals' heads and lists of winners of the Ladies' Point-to-Point. Snooker was reputedly invented here a century ago and the club still clings to the standards of those golden days. "Casual dress is perfectly acceptable", allows a notice about the four-course luncheons. "But coat and tie is to be preferred."

The entrance is guarded by a doorman in a green baize uniform that looks recently recycled from one of the snooker tables. He is unyielding. No, sir, non-members are not allowed inside without a letter of introduction. No, sir, the secretary is away for a month. I'm sorry, sir, the president's telephone is out of order. Do many members use the club at weekends? "Coming and going, sir. Toing and froing."

We console ourselves with the Nilgiri Library, a grand bit of Victorian Gothic that would look at home in any British provincial town. The Reading Room has solid oak lecterns for perusing *The Times of India* and *The Hindu*. Members sit in low cotton-covered armchairs under stags' heads and browse through old copies of the *National Geographic* magazine. The list of requested additions-to-stock includes "*the latest books of Biggles*".

Mr Yesudass, the attendant, unlocks an upstairs door and gives it a sharp kick to reveal a room lined with *Blackwoods Magazines* and *Punch* going back to 1827. Over the fireplace is a striking ensemble: a bison's head, Queen Victoria (large portrait), the Duke of Edinburgh (small photograph) and an antelope's head. Downstairs, Daphne, one of the assistants, complains about the weather. It has only just stopped raining after five months, she says. A little Britishness lives on, after all.

Just up the road, in the still recognisably colonial part of Ooty, is Higginbotham's bookshop, stacked with *Culpeper's Complete Herbal* and *The Savoy Operas* — and *First Steps in Tamil*, published for missionaries in 1922 and still regularly reprinted. It points out that Tamils use the same word for "shrimp" and "hump-backed woman" and offers translations of such useful observations as "*He talks thickly, as one who has a cold*", "*The water in the rice pots boils with a gurgling sound*" and, philosophically, "All men sleep in the night".

Its greatest glory, though, is a series of conversational exchanges.

First person: "Yonder I see an elephant standing. How did it come here?"

Second person: "It is not a true elephant. It is a monolithic sculpture."

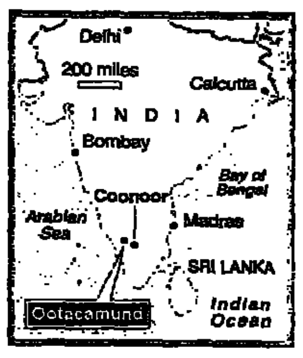
First person: "My eyes deceived me. The deftness of the hands of the sculptors is something marvellous."

For the remainder of the Raj try St Stephen's Church, looming with its pale yellow distemper above the town centre, a passable imitation of a 14th-century English parish church. It is full of monuments to soldiers who died of jungle fever, to Captain Preston who drowned while out with the Ooty Hounds, and to Bishop Dealtry, "a labourer and overseer in that portion of the Lord's vineyard planted in India". Golden angels cascade from a window and a sweeper sleeps on a rattan bench.

After a week of wandering round Ooty, we took the Blue Mountain Railway down to Coonoor, a smaller hill station. The railway is probably Ooty's biggest tourist draw these days, with its boxy blue and cream carriages edging their way up and down gradients of alarming steepness. We trundle through cuttings and tunnels, along sheer cliffs, with the treetops just dots below, past old British bungalows with saris drying on the lawns.

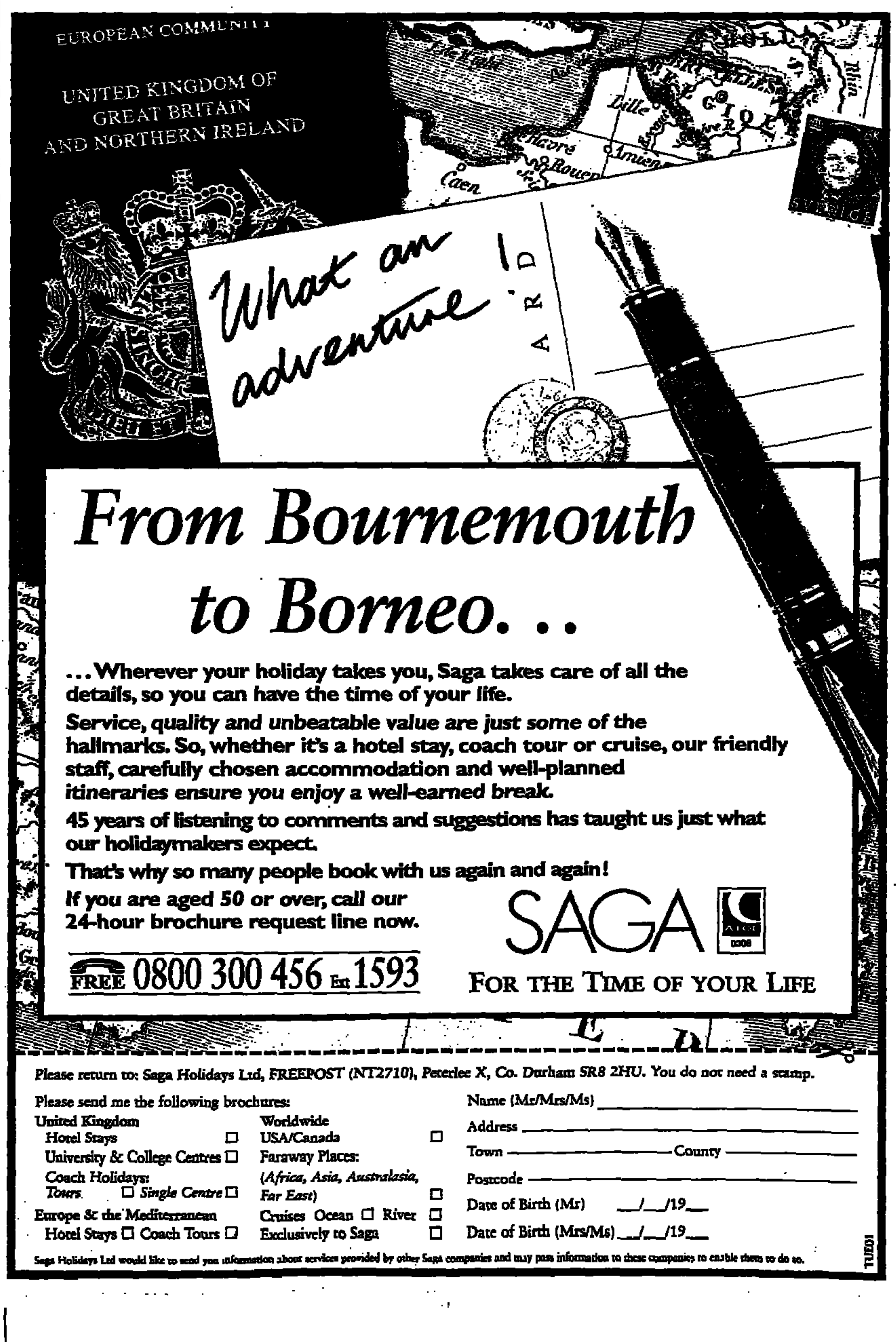
Eventually we reach Coonoor, where Mr Dorci is waiting with his taxi. "Tourists go to Ooty, sir," he says. "But the sightseeing place is Coonoor." Sadly, dense fog has come down and there are no sights to be seen. Mr Dorci is not discouraged. "Beautiful view of opposite hill," he announces, swerving round in his seat. "When no mist."

We stop at Dolphin's Nose, a viewpoint where Indian tourists are photographing each other in front of the fog. "Magnificent waterfall," says Mr Dorci. "See, sir." He pulls half a dozen postcards from his pocket. "These are the views. Beautiful views. When no mist."



FACT FILE

- The author flew to Delhi with Air India on a return flight from Manchester booked through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366). Manchester-Delhi, £384 return. London-Delhi, £484 return.
- Ootacamund can be reached on the overnight Nilgiri Express from Madras to Mettupalayam (ten hours, £25 first class), with a Blue Mountain Railway connection to Ooty (four hours, £2). A taxi from Mettupalayam costs £15. A taxi from Mysore to Ooty would cost about £30. Contact Regal Voyages of Bangalore (00 91 80 334 4066).
- Regency Villa (00 91 423 43097), double rooms from £3 a night (meals extra).
- British passport holders need a visa for India, available from the High Commissioner for India (0171-836 8484).
- Further information from the Indian Government Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1X 1BP (0171-437 3677).
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *South India* (Cadogan Books, £14.99, ISBN 1 860 11070 3), and *Water by Ashokamitran*, (Heinemann, £4.99, ISBN 0 435 95085 1).



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Mediterranean: Despite the popularity of Cyprus there are plenty of hideaways if you know where to look . . .

Aphrodite's palm-fringed benefits

In 1977 I took a 12-month teaching appointment in Cyprus, and stayed for four years. It was hard to leave an island with perfect weather and beaches, hospitable people and a low cost of living.

After the 1974 Turkish invasion, the Greek Cypriots were left with over half an island, but the countryside had a beauty and fecundity worthy of their goddess Aphrodite.

In those days, it took five hours to drive from Cape Greko in the east to Polis in the west; with the much improved roads today, you can do it in three. Along the way there are always new discoveries: precariously-perched monasteries, Byzantine churches, Roman villas and Crusader castles, as well as Aphrodite's legacy — her sanctuary and baths and sublimely beautiful birthplace Petra tou Roumiou.

In spring and autumn I went hiking in the mountains and in the winter months fitted in some skiing. But most weekends, from April until October, my friends and I would point our motorbikes south-east and camp in a scrub forest that flanked a sandy bay.

Cyprus may be best known as the island of Aphrodite but equally important to us was Bacchus's legacy — a single taverna on an empty beach where you could eat grilled red mullet and Greek olives, and drink brandy sours.

In those days, Ayia Napa, where we camped, was a farming village with one hotel. Now it is the island's largest resort, with 7,060 beds for tourists. Things do change and unfortunately the concrete slick remorselessly keeps creeping along the littoral. There are, however, plenty of hideaways left if you know where to look. Cyprus still has some of Europe's best beaches and most dramatic landscape, as well as somnolent mountain villages and well-preserved ancient sites. I may not like all the changes of the past decade but there is still more than enough that I do love to draw me back again and again.

PAUL ABSE

Orthodox priests shop in Paphos market. Paphos, said to be the birthplace of Aphrodite, is a favourite with tourists and therefore best avoided during school summer holidays when the beaches are crowded

BEACHES

East coast: The best are around Ayia Napa but you may have to fight for towel space in the summer. Makronissos has good beaches fanning either side of the promontory and is slightly less busy than those closer to town. Smaller, usually quiet beaches, can be found at Ayia Thekla, west of Makronissos and Ayia Trias at Pernera.

There is fabulous rock diving and translucent water around Cape Greko (Agioi Anargyroi). Once you leave the east coast, the sand is coarser and is often dappled with pebbles.

South coast: Larnaca has become a scruffy, down-market resort popular with off-duty British soldiers from the Dhekelia base. The beach is mostly industrial sand and gets overcrowded in summer. The larger and equally busy resort of Limassol has mostly small, artificial hotel beaches that have been grappling with effluent dumped offshore by four local wineries. It is, however, a working town and has a nightlife to equal Ayia Napa's, as well as a couple of good museums.

The best beaches are west of the Roman remains at Kourion. In Kourion itself, the beach is long and empty, apart from a couple of tavernas. My favourites are further west at Avdimou and Pissouri. The former is quiet, has two good tavernas (Kyrenia has the edge) and a glorious setting with sandstone cliffs on either side, and vineyards and wheat fields behind.

West coast: Between Latsi and Ayios Georgios, the undeveloped northwest is a series of serried bays flanked by gorse, carob and olive trees and is accessible only to mountain bikes and 4x4 vehicles. The further north you head towards the Akamas peninsula (soon to be designated the island's only national park) the more Arcadian it gets: a wilderness beyond the dreams of those staying some 20 miles south in teeming Paphos.

There is one taverna just before Lara (where turtles hatch their eggs on the finest beach outside Ayia Napa): otherwise you should take food and drink with you. Coral Bay is the best sandy beach near Paphos (seven miles north) but it gets very crowded. In town, beaches tend to be like Limassol's: short, man-made and lassoed to hotels.

Northwest: To the east, Latsi has already been developed and will soon get its first 500-bed, five-star hotel, with two more to follow. Ttakas beach, a couple of miles before Aphrodite's Baths has one taverna and is usually quiet.

From Aphrodite's Baths (good taverna with wonderful clifftop setting), the Akamas coastline rises and plummets westwards, passing bays you will only share with an occasional goat or shipwreck. Take water and food whether you are walking or in a 4x4 (in the latter case, ensure the tank is full and be warned, the track is very narrow in places with sheer drops).

MOUNTAINS

The deeper you get into the Troodos, the more sublime it gets. Pedhoulas, Prodhromos and Platres are interesting old hill stations, but try to go beyond these to time-warp villages like Mylikouri, which is inhabited by ancients (the young move to the resorts and towns for work) in a verdant gorge with a nearby Crusader bridge and some of the finest countryside in the Mediterranean. From here you can drive a dirt road down through the Cedar Valley (where you might catch sight of a mouflon) to the west coast. On the Nicosia side, the old village of Kakopetria, slowly being restored, is most interesting.

FOOD and DRINK

Try grilled *halloumi* (goat's cheese), *lountsa* (cured ham) and the humble but tasty *horiatiki* (village salad) for starters. Fish rarely disappoints, and during your stay you should try *kleftico* (lamb roasted in a clay oven), *stifado* (beef stew), *afelia* (diced pork in coriander and wine), kebabs in pitta and, of course, the *meze* (endless small, hot and cold dishes). My family of four spends between £14 and £25 for taverna meals, with drinks (fish and *meze* are more expensive). In tavernas, palatable bottled Cypriot wines cost about £4 and carafe hooch about £2.25. My favourites are the lightly sparkling Bellapais (best drunk ice-cold at lunch) and the more expensive red Domain d'Ahera (about £6.50).

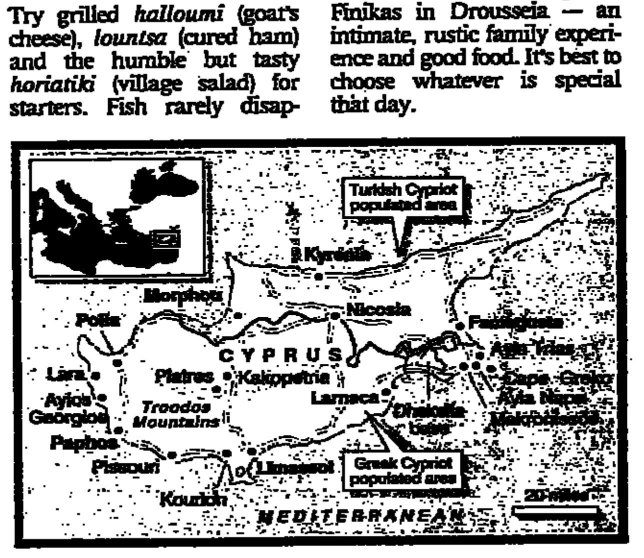
Try these eating places off the beaten track (booking not required).

East: Vangelis on the outskirts of Paralimni. A fine exponent of the modern concrete school of architecture with Gestapo lighting but frequented by locals rather than tourists and occasionally serving sweetbreads, quail, rabbit or pigeon. For lunch (or simply sundowners when the fishing fleet is resplendent in the late sun) try the Dometrion taverna, where the Potamos Xylaphagou river finally reaches the sea.

Mountains: try Maryland at the Mill in Kakopetria. Look no further than locally raised trout in garlic butter (about £8). Overlooks the valley and the restoration work on stone houses in the old village.

South: Kastro's at Pissouri beach is my favourite beach taverna. Mum cooks while the sons Xenos and Aristos serve and befriend. Dad watches telly and thumbs his worry beads. The quintessential Cypriot taverna experience and very cheap.

West: St George's Seafood Restaurant at Ayios Georgios offers good Cypriot fare, if unusually cool service. But the cliffside setting is sublime, overlooking the small harbour. In the evening try Finikas in Drousseia — an intimate, rustic family experience and good food. It's best to choose whatever is special that day.



BEST SITES

About 14km west of Limassol is the 13th-century Kolossi Castle; five kilometres further west, the Greco-Roman ruins at Kourion; 14 kilometres east of Paphos, the sanctuary of Aphrodite (12th-century BC), beside Paphos harbour the House of Dionysos (Roman mosaics).

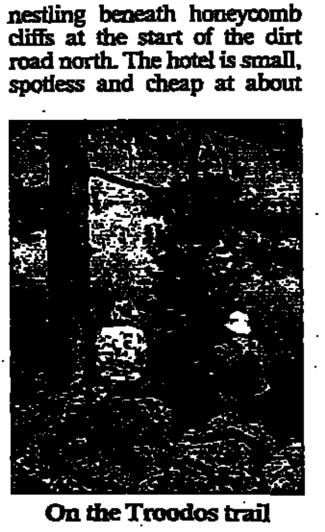
BEST HOTELS

This is a selection determined by setting and value for money rather than number of stars.

Pissouri. Columbia Pissouri Beach Hotel (00 357 5 221201). Three stars (deserving four) and the only hotel on the beach. Idyllic setting with terracotta cliffs at either end of the beach. The sea is overlooked by an attractive pool terrace flanked by family suites. Drive three kilometres through vineyards back to the main road and you are 15 minutes from Kourion and the temple and birthplace of Aphrodite and within 30 minutes of Limassol, Paphos and the Troodos foothills. Doubles cost from about £74, family suites from around £155 per night with breakfast. Pristine, cheap self-catering Pissouri options: two-bedroom apartments (with washing machines, television, air conditioning) from £23 per day (Evagoros — ring 00 357 5 382981) or four bedrooms with pool from £60 per day (ring 00 357 5 222526; ask for Xenios). Both provide free pick-ups from Paphos airport.

Ayia Napa area. I would choose the family-friendly (buggy ramps, children's tea and so on) four-star Dome Hotel at Makronissos (00 357 3 721006), where rooms cost from about £32.50 per person, with breakfast (children sharing parents' rooms pay half).

West coast: Yeronisos (00 357 6 621078) is a simple unpackaged budget hotel in the hamlet of Ayios Georgios, which has a small fishing harbour serving as a breakwater to a sliver of beach nestling beneath honeycomb cliffs at the start of the dirt road north. The hotel is small, spotless and cheap at about £20 for two, with breakfast (air conditioning and tea-making in rooms), about £26 for family of four.



On the Troodos trail

Mountains. If you want to stop over, the Mount View (00 357 2 942346) in Milikouri has modest, clean and cheap self-catering units overlooking a verdant valley. About £6.75 per person a night.

WHEN TO GO

Sunny all year round. Last year I was swimming in the sea on November 8. Rain is a great event if it falls between June and October. Spring and autumn are best. Avoid school summer holidays when it is crowded and very hot.

IN A NUTSHELL

The best restaurant: Maryland Mill at Kakopetria.
Walk: west of the Baths of Aphrodite or along the valley beneath the Mount View apartments at Milikouri.
Monastery: Chrysorriogiatissa is preferable to the touristy Kykko, where Archbishop Makarios is buried. Good view from the roof along the entire west coast.
Tour: Exalt's Avgas Gorge Trek (06 243803). You need to be a reasonable walker and the full-day trip from Paphos costs £30 with lunch. Or hire a four-wheel drive and take in the above and Lara before visiting Ayios Neofitos monastery and inland villages such as Drousseia.
Beach: Lara in the west, Avdimou in the south and Makronissos in the east.

PACKAGES

One week B&B at Columbia Pissouri, with flights and car hire, from £582 per person with Cyprus specialist Sunvil (0181-568 4499). A week's B&B at the Dome in Makronissos costs from £359 per person, including flights with Golden Sun (0171-485 9555).

MORE THAN A BEACH

Cyprus has a wide selection of off-beach options:
Agrotourism: Revitalising old villages. A week's village-based self-catering at Drousseia through Sunvil costs from £511 per person based on two sharing and including flights and car hire.
Walking. A nine-day Troodos Villages walk with Explore (01252 319448) costs from £540 including flights, accommodation and breakfast.
Wine tours: Eleven days full board staying at village homes costs from £1,095 with flights, guided walks and tastings.
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Golf: Argo Holidays (0171-331 7070). One week's half-board in the Paphos hotel £309 including flights. Golf club fees £138 for five days.

FLIGHT ONLY

Cyprus Airways (0171-388 5411) flies from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, and from May from Stansted, to Larnaca and Paphos. Return Apex flights from £240, plus £20 tax.

CAR HIRE

One week with Europcar (0345 222525), about £145, including insurance and taxes. You may get a better deal at the airport on arrival.

INFORMATION

Cyprus Tourist Office (0171-734 9822).

READING

Bitter Lemons, by Lawrence Durrell (Faber, £8.99, ISBN 0 571 06186 9). *Journey into Cyprus*, by Colin Thubron (Penguin, £6.99, ISBN 0 140 12406 3). *Cyprus*, by Marc Dubin (Rough Guides, £9.99, ISBN 1 858 28182 2).

PAUL ABSE

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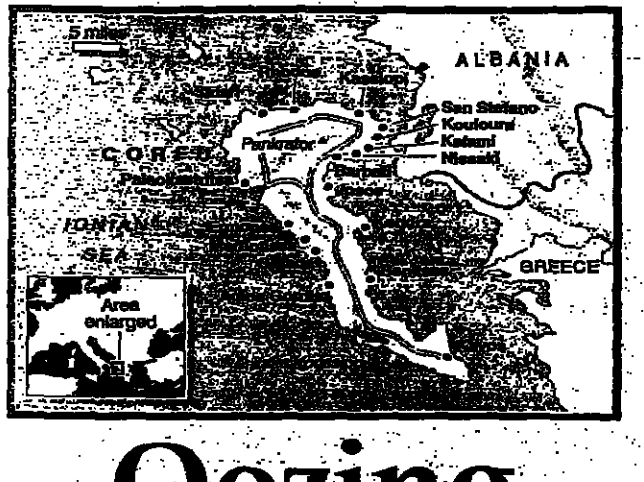
. . . while Corfu is more inviting now the crowds have gone, but take care when choosing a resort in Rhodes



Oozing with charm and ouzo

When the British tourist industry moved into the Mediterranean, Corfu was an early beachhead. After 25 years in the brochures, it is now often passed over by travellers looking for novelty and new destinations. This year, operators have drastically cut capacity to avoid last-minute discount wars, while sending the cost-conscious to Turkey instead, and Corfu is much quieter.

Most of the attractions that made Corfu irresistible to the pioneers still hold good. It is still the greenest of the islands, shrouded in olive groves and fir trees, with tiny fishing villages in sheltered coves on the east coast and sandy beaches on the west.

The reason Corfu can keep its appeal is that the island is more than one destination. Each area attracts a different type of visitor, and through small, private developments each town — and each beach — has a distinctive character.

In the northeast, exclusive resorts huddle around coastal villages where the accommodation is in luxury villas and a boat is more useful than a car for getting to the shops or to deserted beaches. Down south is rave country, where daughters have more fun than their parents realise, and on the western shores soft sand heats alarmingly in the sun: ideal for sunsoaking. Inland, unspoilt villages still shelter among the mountains, home to widows dressed in black, the occasional donkey and shady groves of olives.

There is something for everyone in Corfu, but it is important when booking accommodation, to choose the right area. It might look small on the map but from the perspective of one of the seemingly endless hairpin bends it is suddenly clear that even with a rented car Corfu is a big island, and few visitors will get around all of it. Where you stay makes all the difference.

Clubbers head for Kavos at the southern tip of the island, where more than 80 bars keep some visitors up so late they fly home paler than they arrived. In years gone by, prone bodies snoring their way to their next hangover used to make it tricky driving through Kavos, even at midday, but reduced tourism has polished yobbishness off the youth culture.

Although some visitors never make it to the beaches, they aren't bad and anyone who can walk will find peaceful stretches of sand and the odd ruined monastery to the west.

Either side of the airport, the east coast is intensively developed. Benitses, once home to the traditional British package, is now largely taken over by eastern Europeans. To the north is Dassia, slightly more civilised, and the next bay up is Ipsos, another nightbird centre, edging a long narrow stretch of pebble beach. Having fun here is less of a panic than down south in Kavos.

Corfu's sandy beaches are all on the west coast, a spectacular range of wooded mountains dropping sharply to the sea. One of the best is Agios Gordis, where the wide band of sand hosts plenty of watersports. It is a sympathetic development, with small, privately-run hotels and rooming houses scattered up the steep road, and usually, for some reason, painted pink. Further north, Glifada is a Corfiot favourite with plenty of beach but overlooked by a set of fashionable bars that are just big enough to miss the personal touch.

A short distance up this coast is my favourite sandy beach on the island, Mertiotissa, great for those who want to get away from it all. Isolated by a precipitous access track, this beach is broken up by vertical shafts of rock that keep the monastery at one end and the nudists at the other. There are no facilities here but you can camp nearby. Just north again is Ermones, the only beach I've come across with a lift down to the water: the coast is so steep it needs it.

The next resort north is Paleokastritsa, so beautiful it has become a postcard classic. Sheltering cliffs surround two startling-blue inlets, beaches framed by sheer tree-clad slopes. Too beautiful for the British, most of the guest rooms are now filled by sunseekers from richer parts of Europe: a consolation is that now there is more development than the beaches can handle: add daytrippers and Paleokastritsa's small strips of sand disappear under bodies.

Corfu's main family resorts tend to be on the northern coast, where broad expanses of sand shelve gently into sun-warmed seas, and families concentrate in resorts such as Sidhari, Rhodos, Acharavi and round as far as Kassiopi. The one drawback can come from the northwest: the prevailing Maestros wind that blows across the island for most of the summer. To keep sand out of your sandwiches pick a beach that is sheltered.

The smart part of the island for all generations is the northeast tip, between Kassiopi and Barbati. The coast here has pebbly sheltered coves and picturesque fishing villages backed by steep slopes thick with olive trees. Protected from the Maestros by Corfu's highest mountain, Pankrator, they look out (rather nervously) towards Albania, just a couple of miles across the sea. Nissaki, Kalami and Kouloura are prime destinations, but my personal favourite is San Stefano (not to be confused with the other San Stefano across the island in the northwest).

"For God's sake don't tell them about this place," said a dentist on his 17th holiday here as he tried to bribe me by insisting that a bottle of wine went on his bill. As he was a regular and I was not, the restaurateur marked it up to me at the end of the evening so I don't feel bound to silence; but I can understand why he wanted to keep it quiet. San Stefano's perfectly-round harbour, bobbing with yachts, fishing boats and rentable dinghies, is lined with restaurants serving some of the best seafood on the island, a small delicatessen, and a couple of postcard shops selling day-old copies of *The Times*: the atmosphere is magical.

Accommodation in this part of the island is strictly villa, many private, others rentable. This part of the island is very much smart UK territory. There's a small pebble beach to one side of the harbour, but it's best to rent a boat — or walk — to nearby Kerasia beach with a small taverna, or one of the many deserted coves along this part of the coast.

With the many attractions on the water's edge, most visitors never find time to explore inland. In years gone by, Corfiots lived in the mountains, reasoning that pirates would never bother to climb too far for a casual pillage.

Now the Med's a more lawful place (except, if you believe the gossip, for occasional furtive visitors from Albania), the inland villages are quiet retreats of pastel houses and whitewashed churches amid olive groves and cypress trees. The crops are oranges, lemons and figs, and nightlife is lacemaking. In these atmospheric crumbling hamlets the way of life is largely unchanged from times gone by.

Corfu town is more sophisticated, and well worth a few days of anyone's time. Various empires have ruled the island in its chequered history — even Russia had it for a couple of days — and the elegant blend of Venetian, French and Greek architecture gives the capital an eclectic charm. The atmospheric city centre of narrow alleys and sundrenched yellow stonework is sandwiched between two massive forts built to protect the inhabitants from pirates but now elderly ladies sit making lace in the back of shops dripping with tablecloths, and boutiques stock imaginative silver and gold jewellery. Woollens, leathers and the inevitable T-shirts are also on offer, but for a memory that might fade sooner many visitors are happy to sip at an ouzo in the arcades of the Liston buildings.

High season in Corfu is late July and August, which can be very hot. The best time to visit is May and June for flowers or, for a warmer sea, September. In winter the island hibernates: restaurants close and the locals concentrate on the olive harvest.

JACK BARKER

● *The author was a guest of Meon Villas.*

FACT FILE

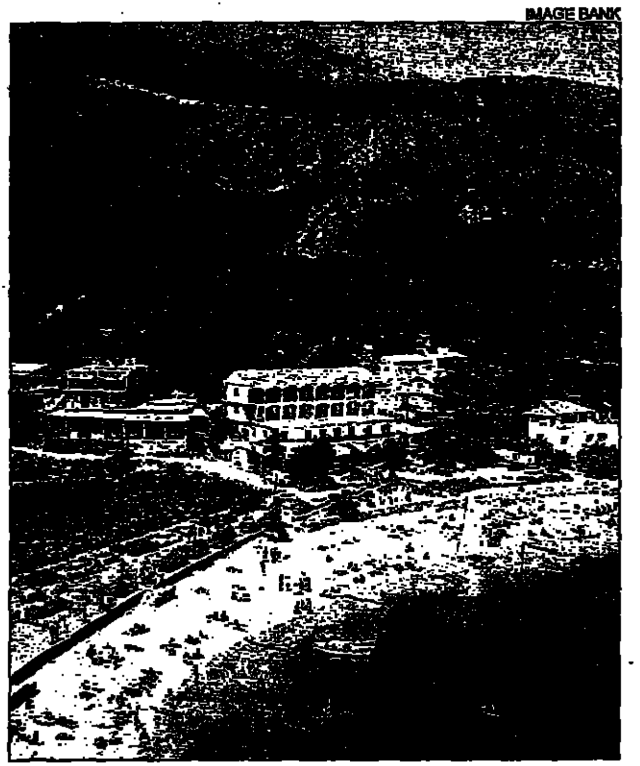
■ Meon Villas (01730 230370) has a number of luxury villas and apartments on Corfu.

■ *For example, a seven-night holiday in the San Stefano area will cost from £399 (September to October), based on four sharing, or at the Villa Sotiris £459, based on six sharing. Includes car hire, representation, welcome pack (food and wine) and flights.*

WORLD PICTURES

Corfu town is an atmospheric blend of narrow alleys and yellow stonework sandwiched between two massive forts

IMAGE BANK



Paleokastritsa beach has become a postcard classic

The Rhodes to heaven

In ancient times, Rhodes's proximity to Asia Minor and Egypt, meant it was swarming with sailors. Centuries later the sailors are replaced by hordes of tourists on this, the largest of the Dodecanese Islands.

An alluring mixture of sun, sea, and beautiful landscapes threatens a new epithet, "the Majorca of the Aegean". But Majorca does not have the Acropolis of Lindos or the Colossus of Rhodes.

So where should you stay? Hotels in Rhodes New Town are ideal for body bronzers, muscle flexers and aspiring Greek dancers. For those who think applying suntan lotion is dangerously strenuous, one of the resorts further south is probably a better choice. Sun and fun seekers head for Faliraki, the St Tropez of the island, where lotion may need to be applied all over — the only nudist beach is here — and the main hotels are firmly in the hands of the major tour operators.

Lindos, a car-free preservation area, drapes itself around a natural harbour. Snow white houses and holiday flats are available in the landmark village itself, but there are some attractive hotels nearby. Narrow winding lanes with pebble mosaic pavements lead up to the Athena Lindia temple and spectacular views (sturdy footwear or a donkey taxi is a must). The ancient churches, courtyards, and women selling lace en route to the citadel, lend great charm.

Rhodes City is less beautiful, but it too boasts a history stretching back to the crusades. A home to legions of stray cats, it is split between the old and new town, where the Occident and Orient meet. Within the impressive walls of the Old Town are some interesting museums and the magnificent Palace of the Grand Masters, with medieval turrets and towers.

The New Town is better known for its beaches, bars, and discos. The Mandraki Harbour, styled by the Italians, whose occupation lasted from 1912 to 1943, is packed with cruise boats set for Lindos. Two thick columns, topped with a stag and a doe, stand on either side of the harbour entrance, where the Colossus of Rhodes once stood, according to one theory. A more recent one argues that this Wonder of the Ancient World, which took 12 years to build and was destroyed in an earthquake, stood near the Palace of the Grand Masters. And should your bathroom at home be short of sponges, head for the harbour. Stall after stall sells them.

We stayed in the north of the island, at the town of Ialysos. Famous for the Meltemi breeze, which is like a natural air conditioner in the summer months, it was the best place to be in the soaring temperatures; Rhodes beats Corfu and Cyprus for sunshine, and even in October temperatures can reach 86F.

> Breezes make the north the place to be

Almost a mile down a rough track the Terinikos Apartments are basic and charming. The medium-sized pool, like the gardens, is immaculately kept and essential for an instant cooldown, although the pebbly beach is only 600 metres away.

The local bars and tavernas in Ialysos serve much the same food as anything we ate elsewhere on the island. We opened almost every meal with *mezedes*, feasting on *taramosalata*, *melitsanosalata* (aubergine salad), and *tsatsiki*, always served with hot pitta bread.

We took buses and taxis; both were relatively cheap. On our way to Lindos, on board a sweltering bus without air-conditioning, the sight of a motorbike overtaking made me wonder that we had made the wrong choice. But however you get there, gazing at the azure sea from high on the coast is the place to be.

MORAG PRESTON

● *The author was a guest of Monarch Airlines (01582 400000) and Cosmosair (0181-464 3444). Seven nights for two adults at the Terinikos Apartments, from May 1 to 7, flying from Gatwick, costs £294 per person.*

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Italy conjures up many varied images, but surely few could be stronger than that of the Lakes of Lombardy and Piedmont. The early mist rising off the water, creating a fragile beauty of flower-filled gardens reflected in the lakes. Villages and towns of brightly painted yellow and pink houses rise from the shoreline up narrow, steep lanes to be lost in the hills and mountains that create such a dramatic backdrop.

Our week long stay in the charming lakeside village of Moltrasio will be at the delightful four star Grand Hotel Imperial. Situated on the shores of Lake Como, this elegant ninety room hotel offers a high standard of air conditioned accommodation and spacious, elegant public areas. The gardens are lovely and unusually spacious for this lakeside region, affording the choice of relaxing on a terrace by the gardens or by the heated swimming pool which is next to the lake shore.

The bedrooms are most comfortable, beautifully appointed and have either lake or land view. In addition to the hotel's main dining room there is also an á la carte restaurant and a credit is available if you choose to dine there. Other facilities include a tennis court, squash and a gymnasium.

The temptation when planning a visit to such a beautiful, culturally and botanically rich area as the Italian Lakes is to include as many villas, gardens and scenic wonders as is possible in the course of a week. However, experience has shown that the ideal itinerary allows for a balance of activity interspersed with free time. After all it is senseless to travel to such a wonderfully tranquil place and then spend the next seven days chasing a crammed schedule and thereby missing the very spirit of the lakes.

With this in mind, our itinerary has been planned to allow some free time to enjoy the excellent facilities of the hotel, stroll around Moltrasio or take a launch from the hotel's jetty to nearby villages or Como.

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DAY 2 Full day excursion to Lugano visiting Villa Bagatti and Villa Favorita.
DAY 3 Full day excursion to Bellagio visiting Villa Serbelloni and Villa Melzi.
DAY 4 Day at leisure
DAY 5 Spend the day on Lake Maggiore visiting the Borromean Islands of Isola Bella and Isola Madre.
DAY 6 Leisurely day visiting Villa Carlotta and Villa Balbianello.
DAY 7 At leisure
DAY 8 Drive to Milan for British Airways flights to London (Gatwick).

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Canada: Patient instructors and massive malls make the Rockies ideal for a ski-snow-shop holiday

WORLD PICTURES

At Lake Louise you can skate on the lake, take sleigh and husky rides and cross-country ski around the edge of a tear-shaped glacier. The skiing area is the largest in Canada and set against a backdrop of breathtaking views

The Rocky road to being a better skier

The last time I went skiing was in the French Alps. I was 16 and with a party of school friends. I was very interested in boys and getting drunk and I could not have cared less about physical activity. Not surprisingly, I was a hopeless skier. All-nighters in the disco did not make for success as a first timer and my hands shook too much to buckle my boot straps, let alone hold on to a pair of poles.

I slid along on my bottom behind the rest of the class, being shouted at by the instructor and enduring pitying looks from my classmates who, by the time I got the hang of the snow plough, were mastering parallel turns. On the third day, I decided to skip lessons (which were, after all, at the grotesque hour of 9am) and would venture outside in the late afternoon, for a bit of tobogganing.

So what was I doing, 11 years later, standing on a peak of the Canadian Rockies, knowing there were only two ways down: skiing or the blood wagon? The latter seemed the more appealing but my instructor would not hear of it. There was no way down but to depend on two flimsy pieces of wood and my poor co-ordination.

My character had not changed. I was still more interested in boys and alcohol than anything else, bar possibly shopping and gossiping with my girlfriends. But the fact I was there was not quite the miracle it seemed. Someone had invented the perfect holiday for me — a ski, spa and shop week, in which the horrors of the piste (known in Canadian as a trail) could be more than compensated for by the delights of evenings in the Jacuzzi and hours at the mall.

I still had severe doubts about skiing but was won over by the lure of Canada, where I knew the instructors would be friendly and patient (if not I would sue them). The same could be said of America, but I was won over by the weak Canadian dollar and the fact that the Canadian Rockies were older and far more stunning than their younger, more ragged companions south of the border.

Our first stop in a week's tour of Alberta was at Banff, two hours' drive from Calgary airport. I had anticipated the usual resort tack and was astonished at the sight of our hotel: the Banff Springs, a gigantic Gothic castle, looming from pine trees against a background of snow-drenched mountains.

The Banff Springs was the largest hotel in the world when it opened in 1887 and it exudes a turn-of-the-century glamour that is rarely found in north America. Once inside, there is little need to venture the mile down the road to the town; the hotel has several restaurants where you can eat anything from fondue to excellent sushi.

Most attractive, however, is the hotel's brand-new spa complex, where you can swim in a stunning 32-metre indoor pool, which was totally deserted on my three visits, or in the outdoor pool heated to 40C and set in the shadow of Rundle mountain. There are indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, a steam room and sauna and mineral pool as well as a host of specialised beauty and massage treatments. I did not fully appreciate these luxuries however, until after my first day on the ski slopes at Sunshine Village, a 20-minute shuttle ride away. Here, I strapped on my boots with steady hands and went up the mountain in a cable car. It was late March, but the snow was plentiful and powdery. I met my instructor, Colin, and within minutes we were sidestepping up the nursery slopes. I could dimly remember this bit. I could not, however, remember how to get down the hill and remain upright.

It took all morning for Colin to drum the rudiments of a snowplough into my head. Just before lunch we went up on a chairlift and came down the mountain with Colin leading me by the tips of my skis, a somewhat humiliating experience as toddlers rocketed by.

Returning to the hotel, doubtful that I would make the 1998 British ski team, I headed for the spa and the practised touch of Don, the masseur. After a body scrub and aromatherapy wrap which left me as clean as snow, he pulped and pounded my legs to the tinkle-tinkle of New Age music. An hour more of hot tubbing and chatting with my friends in the steam room meant I had a pain-free night and no aches in the morning.

At our next destination, Château Lake Louise, a 40-minute drive away, there was no spa. Instead we had to put up with the rigours of an in-room Jacuzzi, preferable to the slightly scruffy pool and steam room, due for refurbishment soon. This, however, was more than made up for by the hotel's fantastic setting on the shores of the icy lake, at the foot of a beautiful tear-shaped glacier. While the Banff Springs, its sister hotel, is Scottish baronial, the château looks just like a vast French mansion, with elegant fittings, enormous picture windows and several excellent restaurants.

From the hotel you can skate on the lake, take sleigh and husky rides and cross-country ski. I had time for none of this. Instead we took the ten-minute bus drive to the Lake Louise ski area, the largest in Canada, for more lessons.

On days two and three, I slowly improved, under the tuition of Colin and Anthony, both of whom showed the patience of Job. "You're doing really well," lied Anthony on day three, as I lay splayed on a green run. "Some people take lessons for a whole week and never even make it up the chair." How often did this happen, I inquire. "Well, once, and the couple in question were in their 70s." The advanced skiers in our group were enjoying a variety of runs in perfect sunny weather, with breathtaking views.

We did not want to leave Lake Louise, but then we did not want to leave our next stop, Jasper, either, which we reached via one of the most spectacular drives in the world past the iced-in lakes, suspended waterfalls and smooth glaciers of the Columbia Icefields Parkway.

Here, we skied at Marmot Basin, which in late March still had perfect powder snow but was virtually deserted. I did not believe I could find a more angelic tutor than the two Colins and Anthony, but Trish was kindness personified and by the end of a day here I was skiing whole green runs without falling over.

We stayed at the Jasper Park Lodge, a five-star country-and-western style spread of cottages on the shores of a cobalt-blue lake. We had to push past elk grazing on our doorstep to make our way to the main lodge, where we splashed in the outdoor pool, before devouring a world-class five-course dinner.

The last day of our trip was spent at West Edmonton Mall, the biggest shopping mall in the world (whatever they may tell you about rival establishments in America), a dazzling collection of more than 800 shops, an indoor lake with dolphins that is trawled by four submarines (the Canadian navy only has three). There is a waterpark, heated to 30C, with a wavepool, 16 waterslides and bungee jumping and the world's largest indoor amusement park with a 13-storey Drop of Doom and a quite terrifying rollercoaster, which we had planned to ride until we saw it. "Well, we've just had lunch, we don't have much time for shopping, I feel a bit bruised from skiing," we all muttered as we watched it loop and plunge.

My talent for skiing may have been minimal, but my talent for shopping was undiminished. In less than an hour I bought so many things that I could not even begin to pack them. And this was before I hit the wonderful (and inexpensive) designer shops in downtown Edmonton.

The good skiers in our group had been in heaven but for a bad skier, this was the perfect holiday. If I had simply decided to call it a day, there was plenty to do off the slopes. Yet thanks to the patience of my instructors, I was not put off at all. If I had performed this badly in the Alps my confidence would have been shattered for life, but Colin, Colin, Anthony and Trish be warned, you could well see me back in Canada again.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

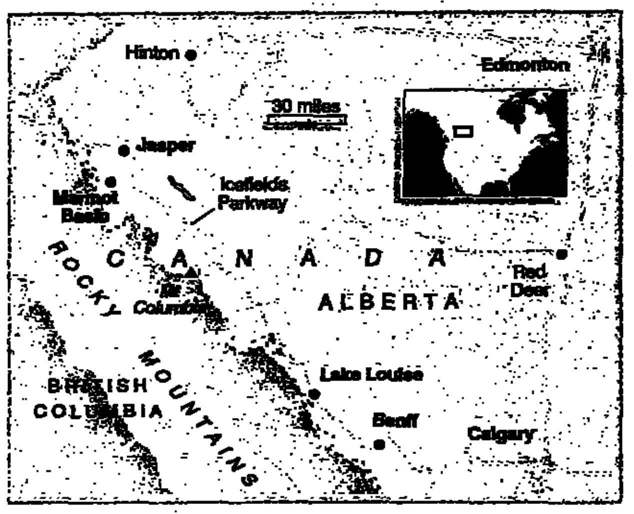
● *The author was a guest of Canadian Pacific Hotels and Canadian Airlines.*

FACT FILE

■ All hotels mentioned in the article are part of the Canadian Pacific Group, and many of them appear in ski company brochures. For information ring 0171-389 1126.

■ Ski companies that use the hotels include American Dream Holidays (0181-470 1181); Inghams Travel (0181-780 6600).

■ All Canada Travel and Holidays (01502 585825). Canadian Airlines fly from Heathrow to Calgary. Return fares from £372.



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America: On Tangier Island everyone has a Bible and a mail-order catalogue, **Leslie Thomas** discovers

Water everywhere, nor any drop to drink

SAM KITTNER

Safe haven on Tangier Island, off the coast of Maryland in Chesapeake Bay. Although almost landlocked, the bay is at the mercy of notoriously violent weather

There had been gusts of 90 miles an hour at the weekend, according to the locals, and the Maryland coast was strewn with pole-axed trees. But on Monday morning the little harbour at Crisfield was placid and Chesapeake Bay lay muddily below a muddy sky. The boat for Tangier Island was loading. Half the people on Tangier are my namesakes and the skipper was Stephen Thomas. "We'll get you over," he promised. "But there's no saying when you'll get back." He sniffed at the stiff breeze. "It's coming up again."

It was the first time I had heard a Tangier Island voice, American but with the unmistakable accents of Cornwall. They say it was brought from England by the first settlers in that fragment of the New World. In the Baptist church on Tangier you could hear an evocation like this: "So, we'n goan to pry to our Lloyd Jeyzus Chroist." On Smith Island, named for Captain John Smith of the Pocahontas story, they also have a strong strain of West Country in their speech. But each island claims to sound different from the other and both — despite the Cornishness of their speech — have a preponderance of Welsh names, the Thomas tribe on Tangier, the Evans family on Smith.

The crew claimed to be unhappy with the boat, the *Captain Eulice*. She was older and slower than the usual ferry, which was laid up for repairs, and she normally did the less frequent run to the Virginia shore. But although Tangier is officially part of Virginia, her lifeline is to Crisfield in Maryland. Just to confuse matters further, the boundary between the states cuts Smith Island in two.

Like all island ferries, the *Captain Eulice* was piled with the goods of everyday life: building materials, food, crates of Pepsi, a huge television set, a new sofa with a plastic cover. I looked in vain for the beer or whisky or wine which would have formed part of such a cargo to most islands. "No drink on Tangier," said Stephen Thomas emphatically. "It's a dry island." He eyed the skyline again. "And I reckon you'll be out there a few days."

Chesapeake Bay, although almost landlocked, has some notably nasty weather. The wind can swing in minutes, throwing up the sea against itself, and confusing the gulls. "I hate the sea," said Yvonne Smith, an islander, as we cast off and headed for a large expanse of it. For 18 years she has made the journey weekly to and from the mainland where she works as a part-time waitress. "I earn my living over there," she said, gesturing at the receding background. "But my home is on Tangier Island. There's nothing for it but to make the crossing."

She sat with two other island women, Rosalyn Park and Susan Eskridge, old Tangier surnames. They tried out a face lotion which Susan had bought in Salisbury, Maryland, the nearest shopping centre. Their lives, they said, revolved around the island's two churches. They discussed the Men's Prayer Breakfast and a Ladies' Cover-plate Dinner where each housewife took a secret covered dish. "The fun is when several ladies bring the same thing," said Yvonne. All three were adamantly opposed to any liquor being available on the island. "We've got 700 people," said Rosalyn, shaking her head vigorously. "And 690 would be against it. It would ruin our lives."

Susan said: "You'll find two books in every house on Tangier. One is the Bible and one is the mail-order catalogue. We would not be without either of them."

By now, an hour and a quarter and 14 miles after leaving Crisfield, we were coming to the island. It measures three miles by one and lay so low that the white houses, the pointed church and the town water tower with "Tangier" written across it seemed to be afloat on the grey bay. We steered into a channel edged by skeletal wooden piers each with its small shack — the workplaces of the soft-shell crab fishermen who keep the place prosperous. There is a traditional cry as any vessel comes to the island haven, even if the answer is well known. "Where've you been?" It was called and answered. We were there.

Mailbags were unloaded; so was the sofa and the Pepsi. Ashore were two pick-up trucks and half a dozen electric golf buggies, the main island transport. I stepped on to the busy jetty. It began to rain. For 40 years I have been exploring and writing about islands; now I started to realise I had arrived in an unusual, perhaps mysterious place.

Tangier people are not sure how their island came by its name. There are stories that Captain Smith called it after the Tangier in Africa where he had once escaped from captivity, although there is no documented mention of the American name for more than a century after his arrival in a storm and with a broken mast. I suggested it might have come by its name after a ship called *Tangier* was wrecked there, which is the pattern with many small islands, but the locals doubted it.

The sea keeps chipping at the place. During the war of 1812 it was commodious enough to accommodate 12,000 British troops preparing to attack Baltimore. A redoubtable cleric, the Reverend Joshua Thomas, was asked to preach to them before they embarked. He responded by telling them God had informed him that the British would be roundly defeated. They were, too.

"There is a tale that the first settlers got the islands from the Indians for a couple of overcoats," said Wallace Pruitt, as we drove in his golf buggy towards his house. His accent could have come from anywhere west of Exeter, but with a dash of Yankee. "My folks came over early, like most of the families here, the Pruitts, the Thomases, the Parks, the Dises." We were bumping along the lanes between the white wooden houses. "See, most of them are still here," he pointed. We were passing backyards where lines of gravestones stood among satellite dishes, washing lines and children's painted bikes. Several gardens had accumulations of long, white tombstones, chipped out with family names; one yard, no bigger than half a tennis court, had 100 more or less upright stones. "They go back right to the beginning of the 1800s," said Wallace. "But now we take our dead to the mainland."

It was a wet, bitter day. "Storms are coming back," he forecast. "It blows here. B'ain't nothing to stop it." He spends two weeks on the island with his wife Shirley and then two weeks as a tugboat captain in Philadelphia. "There's some Tangier men work away, them that's not on the water, as we call the crab fishing. But everybody comes back. Not many leave. The children can be at school here right through the grades till they're 18, and that means they stay. On Smith Island they go across by boat to Maryland to school and the population there is down to 350 — half ours."

We bumped across the middle of Tangier over the wooden bridges across the waterways called guts. "In the old days," said Wallace, "everything had to be carried to different parts of the island down the guts on little sculls. Now we've got cars and pick-ups and motorbikes and these golf buggies. We've got no golf course, though." We passed a warning sign: "Speed limit 15. Speed checked by radar."

At half-past midnight a dark wind began to stir and an hour later the promised gale was snorting across the cowering island. Rain rattled against the wooden house, even the water in the toilet pan swayed. It was a good time to be in bed. When the storm eased the following afternoon it was only to change direction. It was four days before I could leave Tangier Island.

A hefty tree was leaning ominously over the roof of Gwendolyn Dise's house when I went to see her. She was watching afternoon television in a warm room, patently a widespread winter occupation on the island. "Years ago," she said, "this house was moved on rollers to where it is now. I can't see us moving it again just because of trees falling down."

She was born 73 years ago near Stroud in Gloucestershire, and arrived in Tangier as a GI bride just after the war. "I was very homesick when I first came here," she recalled. "For months I didn't get any letters, either. It turned out that they were going to the Tangier in Africa."

She worked as secretary of the school and her daughter Maureen helps to run the medical centre. A doctor flies in twice a week and there is a visiting dentist. Gwendolyn broke her hip last year and was taken off by helicopter. They went to Gloucestershire on holiday and once they had managed to find the way out of Gatwick ("it took hours — we didn't know what to do at roundabouts") they had a good time. "I loved everything about England," sighed Maureen. "The country, the people, the food."

In the summer Tangier Island must be a lovely place. Chesapeake Bay is a different sea then, there are beaches and anchorages, a perfect place for exploring and enjoying. But on those gale-bound winter's nights I wished it had a pub. There are two seasonal restaurants. One of them ventured to ask permission to serve a glass of wine with its tasty crab cakes and was turned down flat.

A one-time minister confidently forecast that if any place was permitted to sell liquor it would be burnt down. The islanders, especially the women, are in no doubt that drink is evil. "We can still enjoy ourselves," one lady told me reprovingly. "After church in summer, everybody gathers in Spanky's and they have a high old time." Spanky's is the ice-cream parlour.

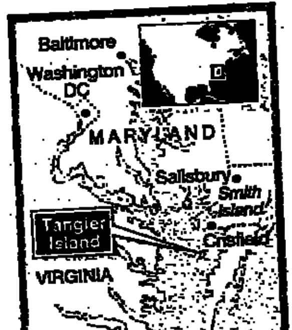
In winter the only place to eat is a Formica-tabled room, little more than a shed, where the young people gather to talk and drink grim orange pop, icy and fizzy. The menu is varied. "There's hamburger and fries, chicken and fries," said the waitress. "Or you can have a dozen oysters." I don't eat oysters.

Crime on the island mostly consists of restless teenagers playing hide and seek with the police car as they exceed the 15mph speed limit on dark nights. But there have been more serious matters. Tangier has an unsolved murder.

More than 50 years ago the local policeman was shot dead, a revenge killing, so the story is, because he had strongly admonished some men who were laughing as they sat on the porch in front of the closed store one sabbath. It is a tight community and the same families still live on Tangier. Somebody knows. Nobody has told.

Sometimes, too, the pressure of what the devout islanders think of as the truly good life proves too much for some individuals. Not long ago the minister of the church climbed out of the pulpit and left his sermons, his home and his wife of 23 years, and went off the island, never to return.

TANGIER ISLAND FACT FILE



- **Apex flights** from London Heathrow to Baltimore with British Airways (0345 222111) cost from £303 return.
- **Car hire:** Hertz (pre-paid in Britain, booking number 0990 996699) offers unlimited mileage for £150 per week, including tax.
- **Ferry:** the crossing from Crisfield, Maryland, to Tangier Island costs $10 (about £4) for a single passage.
- **Where to stay:** Bay View Inn, Tangier Island (001 804 891 2396). A double room costs from $55 (about £20) per night.
- **Reading:** *Tangier Island: America's South*, by Tom Weil (Hippocrene, £13.50, ISBN 0 781 80139 7). *Virginia: Compass American Guide* (Fodor, £14.99, ISBN 1 878 86795 4). *The Sot-Weed Factor*, by John Barth (Flamingo, £7.99, ISBN 0 586 09216 1). *Frommer's Guide Maryland and Delaware* (Macmillan, £9.99, ISBN 0 028 60872 0).

The Royal Cities of Rajasthan

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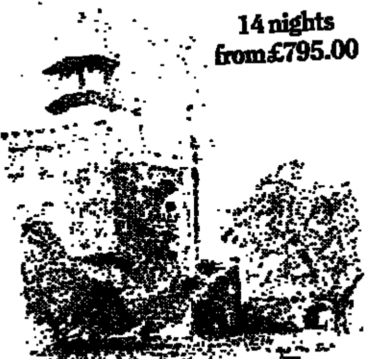

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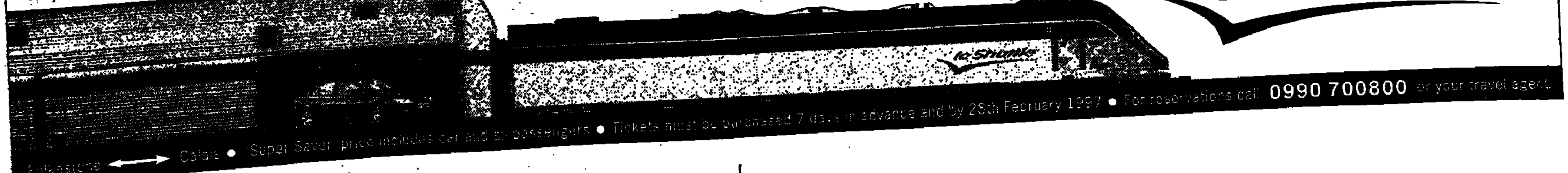

Folkestone ⟷ Calais ● 'Super Saver' price includes car and all passengers ● Tickets must be purchased 7 days in advance and by 28th February 1997 ● For reservations call 0990 700800 or your travel agent.

هكذا من الاصل

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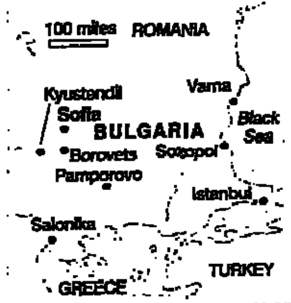
International: Ottoman traditions survive in Bulgaria; cheaper ferries to France; plus holiday ideas

A forgotten Balkan beauty



The white-haired old lady selling lace in Kyustendil market was philosophical as she pocketed the very small sum of money I needed to buy her beautiful tablecloth. "*Lozo vreme*," she said, and then sank her teeth into a large cheese and spinach pastry.

"Bad times" indeed they are for the inhabitants of this Balkan country with a poor image, once the home of the secret police with the poisoned umbrella, and now trying to cope with a plummeting currency and disintegrating economy. After 50 years of hardline communism, the place and the people deserve better but have not yet found it.

However, none of that affects the beauty of the mountains, the many unspoilt parts of the Black Sea coast, and the quality of the wine and the brandy. Thanks to the currency crisis, it is one of the cheapest destinations for hard currency visitors in Europe, with a good bottle of cabernet or gamay for as little as 40p and a meal for £1.

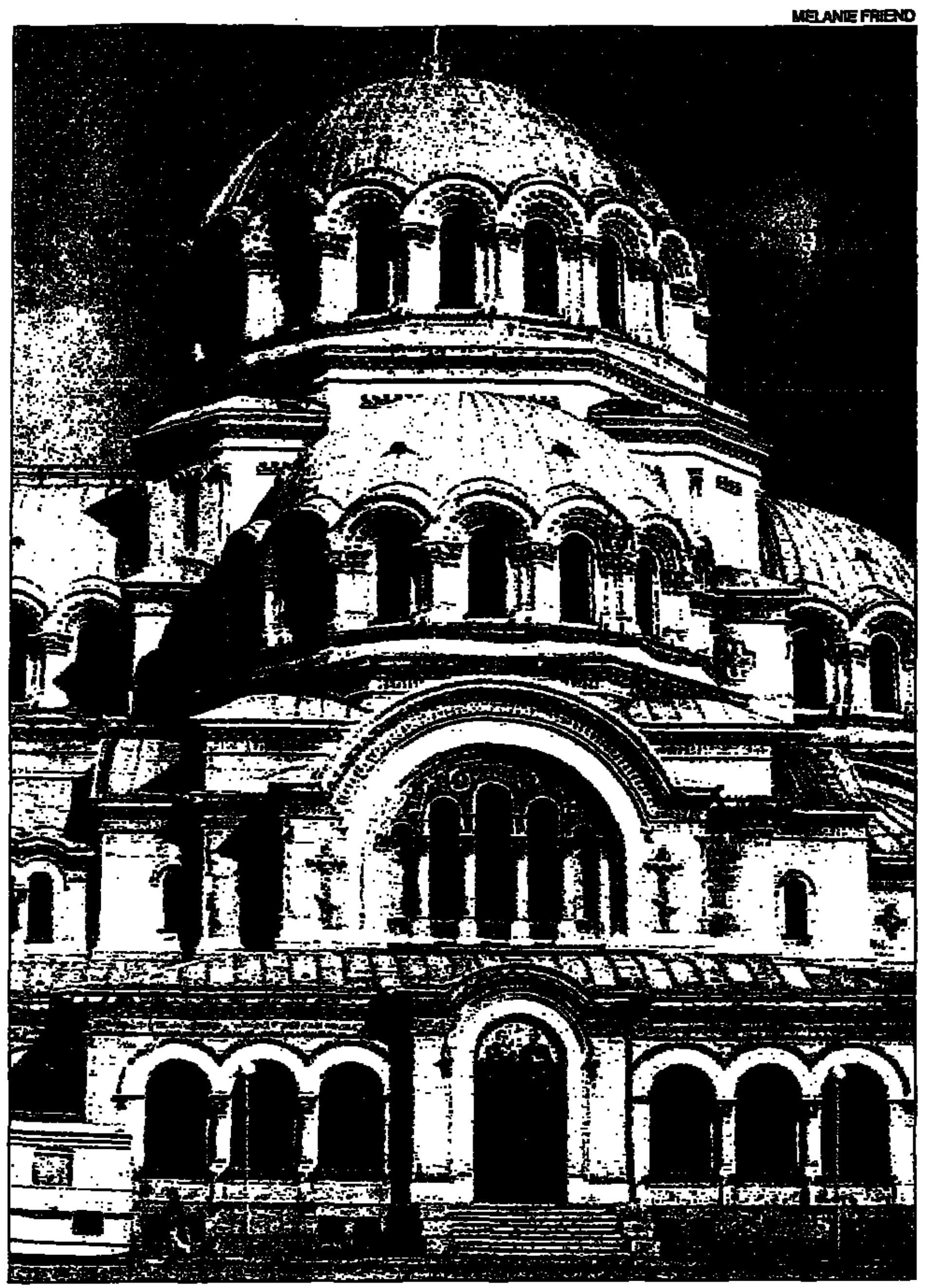
In the old days, Bulgaria was heavily promoted as a mass-market summer destination, with the wide sunny beaches of the Black Sea coast dominated by elephantine tourist developments such as Sunny Beach and Golden Sands, which were correctly thought to be full of elephantine and sunburnt Germans.

But there is a good deal more, with skiing resorts such as Borovets and Pamporovo, evocative medieval towns and magnificent archaeological sites. Bulgaria makes an interesting, long weekend or city break. Skiing and summer holiday packages are outstanding value and quite civilised if you avoid the big Black Sea resorts.

Most things in Bulgaria start and finish in Sofia, and the city deserves a day or two in the historic centre, although the grim industrial outskirts are off-limits. It was once a vital Roman crossroads town, ancient Serdica, between Constantinople and Belgrade, and some wonderful churches survive from the Byzantine period. Visit Saint Sophia, echoing, mysterious, candle-lit, a fragment of the ancient world lost in the Balkans.

There is a fine mosque, left from the 500 years of Ottoman occupation, and the grand synagogue is the largest in the region, with a vast copper-covered dome that comes alight in the winter sunshine. Bulgaria's Jews fared rather better than in many neighbouring countries, and there is still a noticeable Jewish presence in parts of the city.

MELANIE FRIEND



Alexander Nevsky cathedral in Sofia, an old-fashioned city full of unexpected charm

The National Museum holds the magnificent Thracian and Hellenistic goldwork found in royal tombs in Bulgaria, with drinking cups in the shape of deers' heads and beautiful gold vases. Nearby is the National Art Gallery, scene of the late Robert Maxwell's "benefactions" as he sought to curry favour with the Communist rulers.

Sofia is old-fashioned, rather like a black-and-white film of a Balkan capital, with little covered alleyways, beady-eyed thin cats and square, chunky inhabitants well wrapped up against the winter cold. Although the climate is continental, it is rarely arctic, and the closer you get to the Black Sea the warmer it gets.

> 'The skiing and summer holiday packages are good value and quite civilised if you avoid the Black Sea resorts'

Sozopol is perhaps the prettiest place to stay on the coast. An ancient Greek colonial settlement, Sozopolis (Safe City) was something to take seriously on this stormy littoral. The Greek mariners called it Ineuxine Pontus, the Inhospitable Sea, and it can be, but often in autumn and winter the weather is bright and mild, and there are fine walks along te deserted beaches fringed by beech woods. Greek is still spoken in the town, along old-world wooden-housed streets, while Russian is becoming the business lingua franca of the port of Varna to the north.

The departure point of Dracula's coffin on the way to Whitby in Bram Stoker's famous novel, Varna has the finest Roman monument along the whole of the Black Sea coast, the magnificent Thermae, a huge bath complex that allowed hundreds to relax after a hard day dealing in the equally vast Forum. Nowadays, the Russian timber mafia, who are something of a force in the city, relax by roaring around in huge Mercedes with black windows. There are so many Russians in Varna that there are no fewer than three Russian-language newspapers.

A good winter trip that takes a couple of hours on the train from Sofia is to Plovdiv in the tobacco-growing south, called Phillipolis from the times of Alexander the Great. It is a civilised old town built on three little hills, with a marvellous Roman theatre, one of the best preserved in the world, and some good mosques and churches.

Since the end of communism, trade links with both Greece and Turkey have grown and it has a more cosmopolitan atmosphere than most of Sofia, with a strong Greek, Gypsy, Armenian and ethnic Turkish element in the population.

Food can be very good if you know where to find it in Sofia. Restaurants can serve a surprising range of dishes besides the familiar salad plus grilled meat that every visitor to Greece knows so well. For food in the evening, try Dragalevski village on the outskirts of Sofia.

Collectors should visit the city's flea market, particularly good for old cameras and watches, although beware fake Leicas. Wine is everywhere and excellent, although it is slightly odd to see Sainsbury's labels in English on bottles in corner shops. As buyers of 40 million bottles a year from Bulgaria, we are the main influence. The Black Sea coast has excellent fish, turbot particularly.

Hotels are standard Balkan on the whole, although the Sheraton in Sofia is worth the expense. It is a fine atmospheric old communist building that has friendly, helpful staff and has happily avoided the unpleasant and aggressive "business culture" and astronomic prices of similar establishments in Central Europe. For a middle-market place try the Grand, or for somewhere cheap and cheerful but clean and central, the Slavanska Bessada on Rakovski Street.

As elsewhere in Eastern Europe, the gangsters are powerful but interested in their own quarrels, not foreigners. Behave as in any big city, avoid unlit areas at night and if you go exploring some of the poorer parts of the towns, go with a Bulgarian companion.

Most Bulgarians are kind and helpful and there are plenty of hard-up students who speak good English and are delighted to act as unofficial dragomen, in the Ottoman tradition, for a small fee. If you are unlucky, do not resist: anyone who is anyone carries a gun.

The British Embassy number (980 1220, at 38 Vasil Levsky Street) is useful in case of emergencies — and leave room in your luggage to take home plenty of wonderful wine bottles.

JAMES PETTIFER

FACT FILE

- **British Airways Holidays (01293 723100) offers three nights at Sofia's Sheraton Hotel, with buffet breakfast, from £505 per person for departures from Gatwick until March 25. Airlines flying to Sofia include British Airways (0345 222111), with a superpex fare of £354 return, and Balkan (0171-631 1840), from £229 return. Both require a Saturday night stay in Bulgaria.**
- **Travellers could also fly British Airways to Salonika, Greece, from £152 for an apex return, and then take the coach (five hours) to Sofia.**
- **The Bulgarian leva currency, is in free fall. Take small denomination US dollars or German marks. *Notes should* be in good condition. Avoid Bulgarian banks; use Greek.**
- **Visas are available from the Bulgarian Embassy, 186 Queensgate, London SW7 (0171-584 9400) for £23.**
- **Reading: *Concise History of Modern Bulgaria*, by R.J. Crampton (C.U.P, £10.95, ISBN 0 521 56719 X). *The Inn at Antimovo and Legends of Stava Planina*, by Yordan Yorkov (Slavica, £9.95, ISBN 0 893 57205 5). *Bulgaria*, by Jonathan Bousfield and Dan Richardson (Rough Guides, £9.99, ISBN 1 858 28183 0).**

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Libyan interlude

Battered face of Libya's ancient Leptis Magna

THE magnificent Roman sites of Leptis Magna and Sabratha, the old Greek city of Cyrene, and fine collections of mosaics and Ottoman mosques in Libya are proving popular cultural destinations by Prospect Tours (0181-742 1969), which offers five, eight and 11 day tours accompanied by experts. The managing dirctor, David Lawson, admits that while his holidaymakers are pleasantly surprised by the friendliness, safety and standards in Libya, they are less enamoured of their stay in Tunisia's Djerba, where they spend their first and last nights *en route*. The tour costs about £1,750.

Vatican bliss

WEDDINGS in the small Baroque church of Santa Anna within the Vatican can be organised by Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559 8686), and not just for Roman Catholics. The ceremony can be as simple or as lavish as you wish (horse-drawn carriages, famous tenors, full choirs or harpists), and are conducted in English. Couples must stay at least four nights in Rome to qualify, but those staying longer may have an audience with the Pope. Abercrombie & Kent charges £1,500 for documentation and the ceremony, while £3,000 buys a week's holiday (or honeymoon), flights, hotel accommodation and the wedding — considerably cheaper than the average £10,000 for the traditional British white wedding.

Petrol scam

TOUR operators offering "free car hire" as part of American holidays have come clean by showing the unavoidable extras holidaymakers have to pay to get their "free" car — about $370 (£230) or so for two weeks in Florida. It's a pity, though, that many operators include in the extras the price of a full tank of petrol at just under £16 (Thomsons is an honourable exception; its full tank costs £10.20). Either way, it assumes that you will return the car empty of fuel. In the land of cheap "gas", it rarely costs more than £9 for a fill up.

Tyson tussle

A TRIP to Las Vegas for the Tyson v Holyfield boxing re-match on May 3 is offered by David Dryer Sports Tours (0171-831 7799). The cost, from £950, includes scheduled flights, transfers, four nights' accommodation and fight tickets. The same company also offers trips to the Continent for a wide range of soccer matches.

Celestial

STUDYING birds (123 species) and plant life (at least 1,400 plus lots of bulbs) in meadows which have not been grazed since 1927, are the main aims of the 14-day trip to Central Asia's Tien Shan ("Celestial") Mountains offered by Russian Nature Tours (0181-667 9158). *Included* among the other highlights of the holiday are riding or walking alongside sturdy pack horses, spotting Isabelline bears or Marco Polo sheep, and homestays with expert local guides and ornithologists — who have been bursting to practise their English for most of their lifetimes. The tour, "The Best of the Tien Shan Mountains", costs £2,050, with return flights from Britain, or £1,375 if you join at Tashkent.

French lessons

EUROVILLAGES (01606 734437) is offering five two-hour conversational French lessons on self-catering holidays in northern France from April 5-May 17. Accommodation is in cottages, a watermill and and barn conversion near Mont St Michel. The cost for a party for a week is £425, including ferry crossing for car and passengers.

Youth travel

INFORMATION on cheap fares, budget accommodation, travel passes, adventure tours and visas is detailed in a series of brochures on Australia and Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and the Americas from the student and independent youth travel specialist Campus Travel (0171-730 3402). Among the deals: the "East Coast Discovery Pass" offering unlimited travel between Sydney or Melbourne and Cairns for £92 for under 26s; seven, 14 and 21-day Malaysia and Singapore passes from £23; a European Inter-rail pass for one month unlimited travel in 27 countries for £279.

Jeepers creepers

ADAPTED Icelandic Super Jeeps fitted with huge 44in tyres able to crawl over tank-stopping terrain, and driven by experts, are the vehicles used by Arctic Experience (01737 218801) on its three-night Super Jeep Breaks in March. Based on the village of Hella, weekenders will spend two days travelling through a wilderness of ice caps and gorges, geysers and glaciers, moving to Reykjavik for the last night. The cost is £395 for flights and B&B, plus £30 for a food "kitty".

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15 Apr	£799	05 Aug	£949
22 Apr	£729	09,23 Sep	£849
29 Apr	£699	*6 night stay: from £499*	

The price includes: Scheduled flights/Gatwick. 13 nts all inclusive. Transfers. Prices per person sharing twin. Not incl: UK Dept tax (£10 will be added to invoice). Cuba visa: £15. Local dept tax: $15. Opt ins: £26 (6 nts); £45 (13 nts). Booking conditions apply.
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Channel price war starts

Francophiles planning to take their summer pilgrimage to France will make their francs go miles further if they book their Channel ferry crossing now.

The strength of sterling — close to Fr9 to the £1 — is the biggest factor for tour operators to predict a reverse in the fall in holiday demand for France since 1993. And the upturn coincides with the best-ever early booking offers for cross Channel travel, as Le Shuttle and its ferry rivals continue to fight for supremacy.

Peak season crossings for under £100, including Friday and Saturday sailings in school holidays, are available from Le Shuttle and all four ferry rivals operating out of Dover.

Sea France is the cheapest, *offering a £75 fare for a car* and four passengers travelling out between Sunday and Thursday, or £89 for Friday and Saturday.

For a car and nine passengers, the Sea France price rises to £95, more in line with Stena (£98). P&O and Le Shuttle (£99) and Hoverspeed (£109). The latter also has a £78 fare on its Folkestone-Boulogne route, both for a car and five passengers.

But decide your plans quickly, because the special fares must be booked and paid for by February 28. After that, brochure prices of up to £268 will apply.

While still about 40 per cent cheaper than 1996 first-edition brochures, the tunnel and ferry companies are hoping to avoid a repeat of last spring's bloodbath when fares dropped to about £100.

In its brochure, Le Shuttle has cut its standard return price to £169 from £268 last year, while fares for the eight *peak summer* weekends *drop* to £199 from £328. "We want to have prices that are competitive and affordable," says the managing director of Le Shuttle, Bill Dix. "We are hoping not to mess around with discounts this summer."

CROSS-CHANNEL PRICES

DOVER-CALAIS — Summer 1997

	Unlimited		5-day return	
	Standard	Peak	Standard	Peak
P&O Ferries	218	268	124	138
Le Shuttle	169	169	109	129
Stena Line	216	266	122	136

(All car and up to nine passengers; figures are in £)

	PORTSMOUTH-CAEN (Brittany Ferries)	PORTSMOUTH-LE HAVRE (P&O Ferries)
Standard	240	240
Peak	260	260
10-day ticket	196	195
5-day ticket	130	130

(Both routes: Car, two adults. Children free, extra adults £7)

As market leader (with close to a 50 per cent share before the tunnel blaze), the ferries were expected to follow Le Shuttle in setting fares. But in first-edition brochures, both P&O and Stena Line have set fares higher than their rival.

While still cheaper than 1996 brochures, P&O has set peak return fares on Dover-Calais at £268 and standard returns of £218. Stena has set almost identical fares, £266 and £216 respectively, both for a car and nine passengers. The two companies appear to have been wrong-footed by Le Shuttle, which delayed brochures following the tunnel fire. The tunnel now expects to be back in full operation by June.

But P&O and Stena may wait until mid-March to publish second-edition brochures with lower prices to match Le Shuttle. On March 6, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected to recommend the two companies be allowed to merge on the prime Dover and Folkestone routes. This will cut joint ferry capacity from ten ships to six. With fewer ships and growing demand for travel, the chances of a late price war are considerably less than last year.

Meanwhile, the two other operators, Sea France and Hoverspeed, can be expected to snipe away at prices. Both have yet to publish summer fares, but are relying on niche appeal.

Hoverspeed has the fastest crossing and offers extras such as a windscreen-wipe service and free newspapers. Sea France is the only French-owned company on the route and makes a virtue of its cuisine and style.

In accounting for 80 per cent of cross-Channel travel, fares from Dover and Folkestone set the agenda. So, on western Channel routes, Brittany Ferries and P&O have also cut prices to ensure they take their share of customers. Brittany has cut fares on average by 13 per cent and produced virtually identical fares to those of P&O.

Both are now in the same price range as Dover-Calais ferry fares, with both also introducing a ten-day fare offers on western routes to attract families taking one-week summer holidays instead of the usual two.

Brittany has also employed other tactics to boost its share, with an emphasis on holiday sales, rather than ferry only. It has launched a camping brochure, expanded its Holiday Homes product, and taken over the marketing of Gîtes de France in Britain.

The company expects nearly a quarter of its summer ferry customers to be taking one of its gîte holidays, while reporting Holiday Home sales running at 18 per cent ahead of last year.

STEVE KEENAN

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

VEDRO
(c) A Russian liquid measure equal to 2.7 imperial gallons. From the Russian word for a pail or bucket. "The peasants of that province drank this year 62,924 vedros of vodka more than last."

YETLING
(c) A pot or boiler, usually of cast iron. Especially one with a bow-handle and three feet. From the Old English verb *yet* to pour, gush or shed. "A fine camp-kettle or yetling, 16½ inches high by 12 inches in diameter, with three tall legs ending in claws."

WAYNOUN
(a) A worthless person or scoundrel. From the Old French *waignon*, the north-eastern variant of *gaignon* a dog, cur or scoundrel.

ZILLAH
(c) An administrative district in India under the British Raj. From the Hindi word for a side, part, district or division.

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Britain: In search of a relaxing short break, one *Times* writer headed for Derbyshire, the other to Kent

Something for the weekend?

PICTURES

Rural Kent: the area is criss-crossed by footpaths for walkers to explore. Houses and gardens addicts are spoilt for choice in this part of the country

The children are heading off to friends for the weekend, you have 48 hours to yourselves for once and you live in the heart of a traffic-choked city. Where can you go for a couple of days that provides a variety of diversions and does not involve long hours on congested motorways?

For Londoners, the Cotswolds, the Chilterns and the Suffolk coast are all within two hours' drive and all exert a powerful draw. But how many think of Kent? The county is too easily dismissed either as commuter belt — smart and unfriendly — or as that dull patch of country that has to be crossed to reach the Continent.

This is a mistake. Rural Kent is often beautiful, frequently surprising and easier to reach than the West Country. Leaving London at 7.30pm on a Friday, we were sitting down to dinner in Cranbrook by 8.45pm.

No doubt it would have been quicker by helicopter — but not much. And indeed the Kennel Holt Hotel's five acres of gardens include a helipad of neatly-manicured grass beyond the topiaried yew hedges that front the 16th-century house. Most guests, however, arrive by more conventional means — to be greeted wetly but warmly by Clovis, the giant schnauzer.

The hotel has ten bedrooms (ours was huge), serious antiques and a kitchen where real cooking is done. The owners, Neil and Sally Chalmers, have dispensed with health and fitness suites and other accoutrements of modern hotel life and concentrated on old-fashioned service. In their previous lives they travelled extensively — he was a director of Saatchi and Saatchi — and learnt how hard it was to find good food and comfort.

Kent boasts a greater concentration of houses and gardens open to the public than any other part of England, from the glories of Sissinghurst Castle, home of Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West — go late to avoid the coach parties — to the roses of Pashley Manor.

In all there are 28 houses and 37 gardens open to visitors within a few square miles, enough to keep visitors returning for years. One of the strangest is Chiddingstone Castle, near Edenbridge, a dull, ugly building which contains an extraordinary, idiosyncratic collection of artefacts built up by the eccentric bank clerk Denys Bower over a lifetime of meticulous buying on limited funds.

The area is also criss-crossed by footpaths which yield constant surprises. We followed one route which took us through an orchard into a wood, across grazing land, past herds of bullocks and sheep and through fields field of wheat and barley — the crops parting like the Red Sea to reveal the footpath.

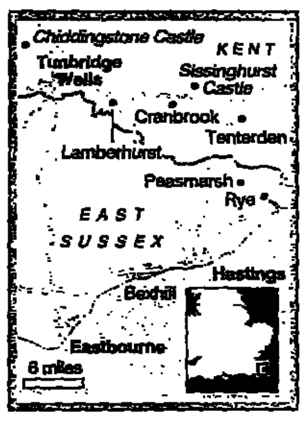
We cycled, too, from Tenterden to Rye and back by a circular route of 33 miles cunningly devised by the Ordnance Survey Cycle Tours guide to give the impression that it was mostly downhill. The best sections were the quietest — the lane across the flat marsh of Shirley Moor, and the sweeping descent through woodlands east of Rye to Peasmarsh. But for a more sybaritic experience we visited Lamberhurst Vineyards, among the oldest in Britain with 30 acres of vines producing 30,000 bottles of a dozen different wines annually.

Paul Cooper and Derek McMillen, who bought it in 1995 from Lord McAlpine for £2 million, are rapidly turning it into a thriving business with production aimed to rise to 60,000 bottles this year. A tour of the winery taught me how laborious the making of sparkling wine is — requiring a second fermentation, freezing of the sediment in the neck of the upturned bottle and then a dangerous process in which the frozen plug is blown out under 10lb of pressure. I had always wondered why a few bubbles commanded a 50 per cent premium on the price of the equivalent still wine.

Is it worth it? Well, the wine we tried, accompanied by smoked salmon served in the airy oast house that has been converted into a restaurant, was delicious. We returned to the city on Monday afternoon, with the sunlight shimmering through the smog, and were home in north London in an hour and a half. The pleasures of the weekend were undimmed by hours spent in traffic queues — and we had added half a dozen places to our list of ideas for future days out.

JEREMY LAURANCE

- *The author was a guest of the Kennel Holt Hotel and Lamberhurst Vineyards.*



KENT FACT FILE

Oast houses are a feature of the Kent landscape

- **Kennel Holt Hotel, Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook, Kent (01580 712032). Bed and breakfast £125 double, £85 single. Lunch and dinner £20 (three courses), £25 (four courses) without wine. Awarded two rosettes by the AA last year, the only hotel so honoured in Kent.**
- **Ordnance Survey Cycle Tours (01703 792000) has 24 one-day routes in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. £9.99. Other guides available for Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire; Gloucestershire and Hereford and Worcester and Dorset.**
- **Lamberhurst Vineyards, Lamberhurst, Kent (01892 890844). Free admission and wine tasting. Tour of the winery and cellars £3.95. Open every day 10am-5.30pm (except Christmas and New Year).**

Peak practice at walking around in circles

Buxton, the Victorian spa town in Derbyshire, has been one of my favourite places ever since I discovered its Women's Institute market on a day trip from Liverpool. If I find myself in the Pavilion Gardens early on a Saturday morning, I stock up on the blackcurrant jam and cider chutney which will remind me of my visit for long afterwards.

As well as being a holiday destination, the tiny town provides a perfect spot from which to explore the Peak District. My companion and I, persuading ourselves that we could see blue sky through the gathering clouds, decided to navigate the heady heights of Mam Tor, drop down to Castleton and climb up again to complete a circular walk.

Because of the many roads that run through the Peaks, you can pick your starting point according to your energy level. Ours were a little dampened by the dull weather and a heavy breakfast, so we opted for a "halfway up" start, just off the A625.

A steep flight of steps from the car park leads to a well defined path, and this goes to the top of Mam Tor. As we walked, we found ourselves tottering on a geographical knife-edge. On the left, the Vale of Edale dipped down towards the River Noe. On the right, the town of Castleton was already bustling with walkers who had got up earlier than we had. The roads below were also dotted with the cars of visitors to the Blue John caverns. Walkers, visitors to the caverns, and their enthusiasm for the trinkets fashioned out of the mineral blue john, are the source of the former lead-mining town's wealth. Winnat's Pass, a spectacular gorge, is also visible from here.

About an hour into our walk, we passed a National Trust marker to reach a point called Hollins Cross. Turning right, we began our descent into Castleton. The steep, rocky footpath turned into a narrow avenue of ash trees. We trod this path, under the gaze of some friendly cows, and reached a road almost immediately. This road took us straight into Castleton. If the crowded network of slim pavements seems like too much effort, head for the quieter environs of St Edmund's Church. It contains a 1609 edition of the Breeches Bible, in which Adam and Eve sewed together fig leaves to make breeches. The ruined keep of Peveril Castle is visible from the graveyard, and this was to be the beacon for the return leg. If you are hungry, the best toasted sandwiches are to be had at the Rose Cottage Café.

Our return was accomplished by heading for Peveril Castle and climbing the steep hill to its right. This is no mean feat. The right-hand fork goes towards Rowter Farm and a nearby small path-cum-road. We turned right on this path, which eventually brought us to a main road (the B6061, which leads to the caverns).

Crossing the road and continuing across the field, we hit the A625. By turning left and walking along this road for a short time, we completed our circular walk. At a leisurely stroll, this leg from Castleton to the car park should not take more than 1½ hours.

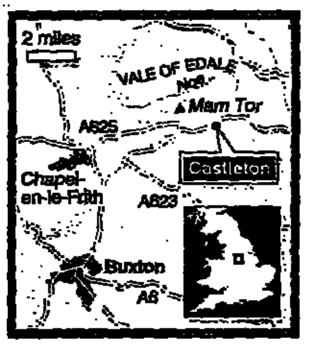
On our return to the hilltop Palace Hotel in Buxton, we treated ourselves to a relaxing swim and sauna. This was followed by dinner in the hotel's ornate hall, which in its heyday must have been a superb setting for Victorian soirées.

We were able to take the waters on an after-dinner stroll, at the town font, although we had to queue behind some embarrassed elderly gentlemen clutching huge plastic containers.

An evening stroll is perhaps the best time to take in the illuminated beauty of Buxton. Former Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire wanted to turn it into the Bath of the north, resulting in elegant stone buildings, sculpted public gardens and a Georgian crescent to match any in Bath.

Another impressive fixture is the petite Buxton Opera House with its magnificent entrance and stained-glass windows. I dreamt of gliding in to watch an Oscar Wilde comedy wearing my 1920s beaded dress. Having failed to check the opera house schedule, however, we were faced with A Night of Country Music. Needless to say, my beaded dress went unworn.

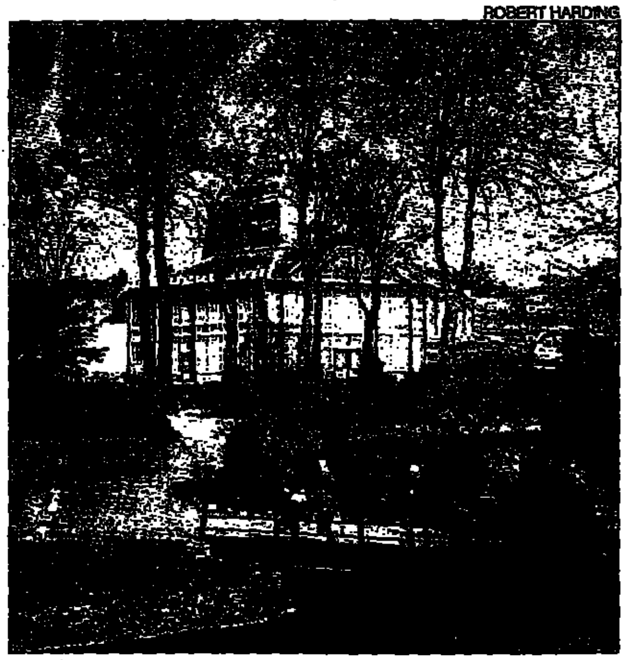
ANJANA AHUJA



FACT FILE

- **The author stayed at the Palace Hotel, Palace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6AG (01298 22001). Prices start at £79.50 per night for a single room (B&B), and £89.50 per night for a double room (B&B). Bargain breaks are available, subject to availability, during the week and at weekends for visitors booking two nights or more. Prices start at £42 per person per night (October-March), and £49 per person per night (April-September). Bargain breaks include breakfast and dinner, and a ticket to Chatsworth House, Alton Towers or Granada Studios.**
- **Buxton Opera House, Water Street, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6XN (01298 72190).**
- **Rose Cottage Café, Cross Street, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WH (01433 620472). Open 10am-5pm every day except Friday.**
- **Ordnance Survey Touring Map and Guide 4 (Peak District).**

ROBERT HARDING



W.I. markets are held in the Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

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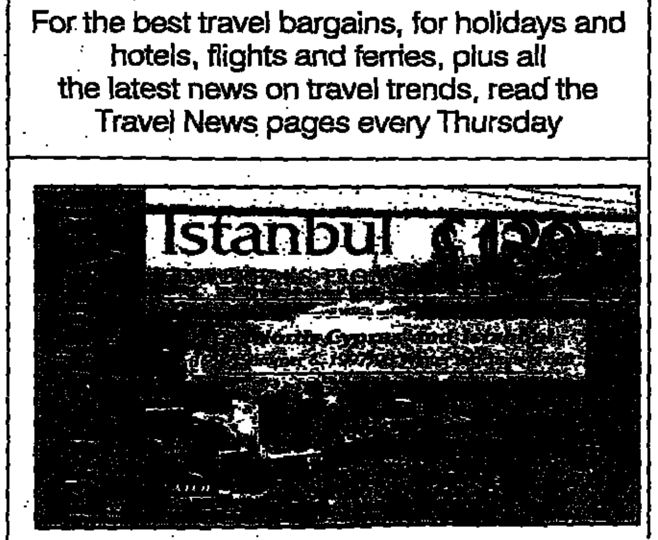

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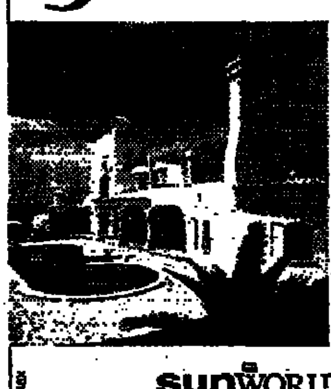

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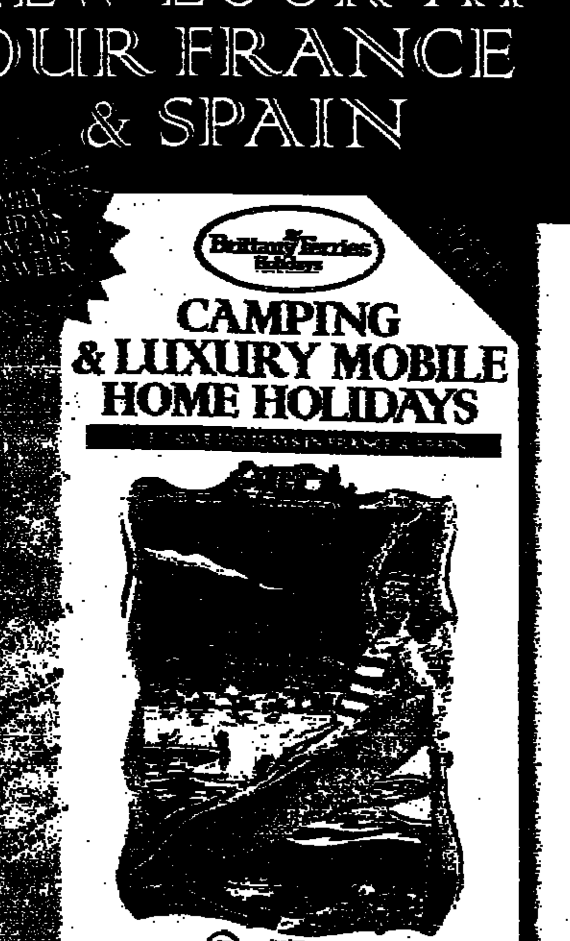
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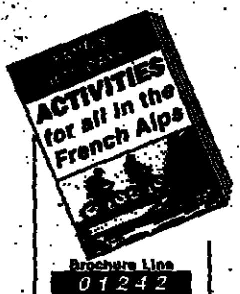

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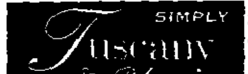

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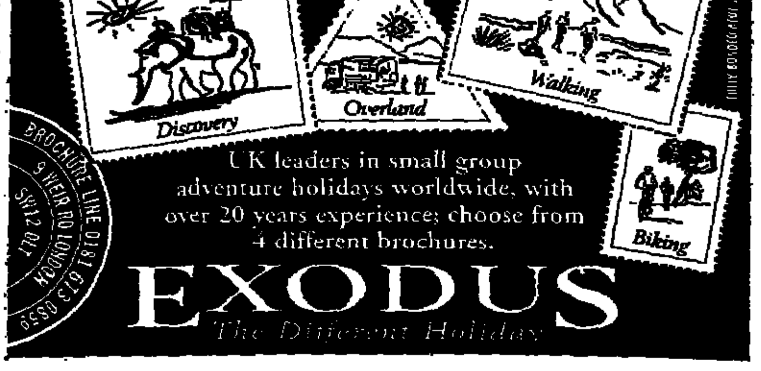

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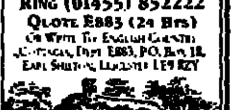

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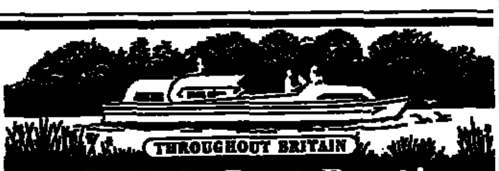

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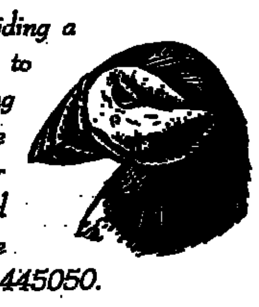

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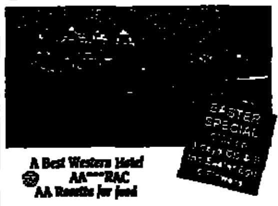

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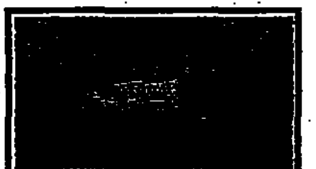

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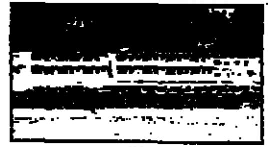

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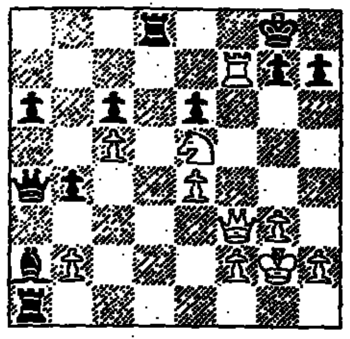
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THIS week and next I shall be continuing to look at positions that have provoked lots of interest. I commence with one which attracted a torrent of suggestions from readers to improve on a grandmaster's sacrifice.

It is from the game Andersson-Winants, Groningen 1993, published as a Winning Move on *January 27*. The Swedish grandmaster Ulf Andersson is renowned as a highly accomplished technical player. However, when the occasion demands, he can demonstrate his prowess as a fine tactical player. *How did he win here?* *White to play.*



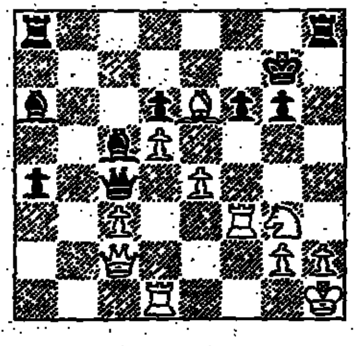
Andersson forced mate in seven, with 1 Rxg7+! Kxg7 2 Qf7+ Kh8 3 Qf6+ Kg8 4 Qxd8+ Kg7 5 Qe7+ Kh6 6 Qf6+ Kh5 7 g4 *mate*.

T. Webster of Sheffield suggests 1 Nd7, threatening 2 Rf8+ and meeting 1 . . . Rxd7 with 2 Rf8 mate. The best defence is then 1 . . . h6 but White can still force checkmate with 2 Rxg7+! Kxg7 3 Qf6+, e.g. 3 . . . Kh7 4 Qe7+ Kh8 5 Nf6! and mate follows on move 8. Clearly, taking an extra move is no improvement.

However, S. Reuben of Twickenham has another suggestion: 1 Re7 Kh8 (1 . . . Rf8 2 Re8! forces mate) 2 Qf7 Rg8 (Black can delay matters with 2 . . . Rg1+) 3 Qxg8+ forcing mate. 1 *Re7* actually forces mate in *six moves at most*, e.g. 1 . . . Rf8 2 Re8 Rg1+ 3 Kh3 Rxg3+ 4 fxg3 Rxe8 5 Qf7+ Kh8 6 Qxe8 mate. Well done, this is one move quicker than the grandmaster.

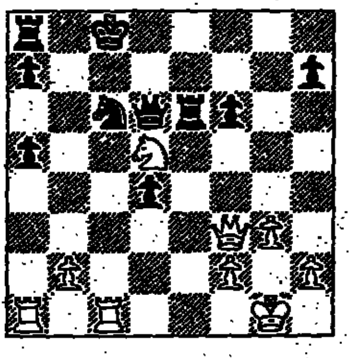
Nevertheless, the quickest win was spotted by Mr R. Hawes of Kent, among many others: 1 Qg4 g6 2 Qh4 *leads* to mate in five, e.g. 2 . . . Rg1+ 3 Kh3 Rxg3+ 4 fxg3 *h5* 5 Qxd8 mate. Congratulations to all those who wrote in improving on the grandmaster's play.

The next position is from the game Shirov-King, Gausdal 1990, published in this column on December 28. White to play.



Shirov continued 32 e5, met by 32 . . . dxe5. Mr H. Long of Kent wonders why Black cannot play 32 . . . Rxh2+ 33 Kxh2 Qh4 "mate". In fact this is not mate, for White can play 34 Bh3. The backwards move of a piece is often hard to spot.

Finally this week, a position from the game Capablanca-Graham, Newcastle 1919. White has great pressure along the open c-file and the h1-a8 diagonal. How did he combine these two elements to force a quick win? White to play.



Solution: 1 Rxc6+! Qxc6 2 Ne7+ Rxe7 3 Qxc6+ and wins on material.

Dr Toescu of Birmingham has spotted an interesting alternative: 1 Ne7+ Qxe7 2 Rxc6+ Rxc6 3 Qxc6+ Kb8 4 Rc1, where Black has no defence, e.g. 4 . . . Qd8 5 Qb5+ Qb6 6 Qd7 and White wins. *However*, this is rather slower than the *original* play, so Capablanca's *continuation* is to be *preferred*.

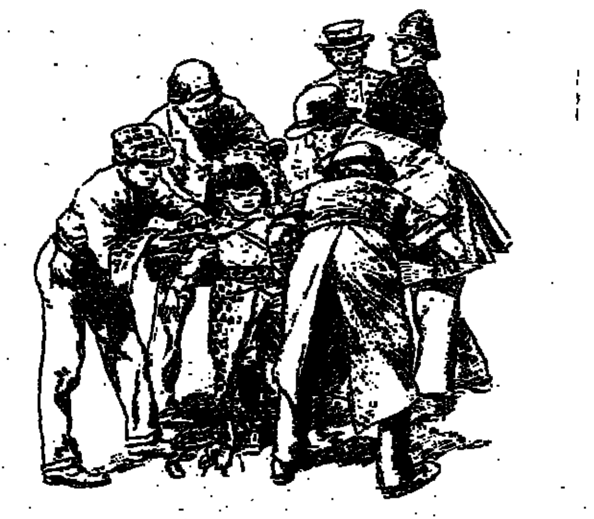
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, *Sherlock Holmes Collection*, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 39, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 19.



". . . and now may I introduce the donor of your sperm?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by A.P.Ridge of York

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VEDRO

a. A *primitive periscope*
b. A fit of the Veda
c. A Russian measure

YETLING

a. A yearling heifer
b. Dilly-dallying
c. An iron boiler

WAYNOUN

a. A scoundrel
b. A *toponym*
c. A travelling man

ZILLAH

a. The Lydiqan letter Z
b. Oomph
c. A district

Answers on page 20

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THESE were the North-South cards in question 1 of the Christmas quiz:

♠2
♥5432
♦5432
♣5432

N
W E
S

♠KQJ10
♥KQJ
♦KQJ
♣KQJ

You were told that neither opponent has a suit longer *than four* cards. How many tricks can you guarantee in a No-Trump contract?

The problem is based on one constructed by Denis Young, who *originally* allowed a defender a five-card spade suit. His *solution* places East with all the aces. East ducks six times (after South plays two rounds of spades, and say two of hearts and one in each minor); *then* East takes four aces leaving a three-card ending of this type:

(immaterial)

N
W E
S

East: ♠— ♥10 ♦10 ♣10

♠K
♥—
♦K
♣K

East cashes the ten of hearts, and if South *misguesses* on each of his *next two discards he makes* no more tricks. As the first squeeze card could be in any suit, Young calls it a "Progressive Quadruple Pseudo Squeeze". In Young's version South can only guarantee six tricks.

In the version set for the Christmas competition, as no opponent has a suit longer than four cards, the defence's spades must be 4-4 and so declarer plays on spades. The best the defence can do is to win the ace of spades and return the suit; declarer cashes the rest of the spades, scoring three tricks. *That reduces the problem to how* many tricks can South *make* out of his three sets of KQJ.

I thought that a similar ending to Young's would arise, with declarer able to make one more trick than in *the Young version. However, the* restriction on the spade length has a more severe effect. David Price points out that declarer should play on just two suits. Say he takes four tricks by playing red suits twice. *He now has seven tricks in the bag*, and is left with:

♠— ♥K ♦K ♣KQJ

Now he plays a club. If the red suits *split 2-0 in different hands, there is* not the communication for each defender to cash two tricks in his suit. And if one defender has all the aces, he must necessarily also have a small club (because clubs cannot be 5-1), and so must concede a club *at the end. So the answer is*, declarer can guarantee eight tricks, not seven as I claimed in my answers on January 4.

The change in the marking of this question makes Joe Merz of Norwich the quiz winner, and he *gets two magnums of Moët et Chandon champagne*. Other placings are unchanged.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

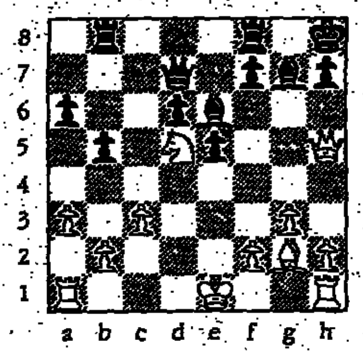
White to play.

This position is from the game *Mukhametov - Yagupov*, Orel 1994. *With his two bishops and* central pawn mass, Black will have a good game unless White acts quickly. In fact, he acted very quickly. What did he play?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct *answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the* Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Neg5 (1 Nfg5 works equally well).

Last week's winner: T.W. Spurr, *Hazel Grove*, Welton, Lincoln.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THERE ARE big bucks to be made taking *popular cartoon characters* from the small screen and putting them into video games for the PC. But despite potential rich pickings, the often cheap and nasty results suggest that franchises are being sold off regardless.

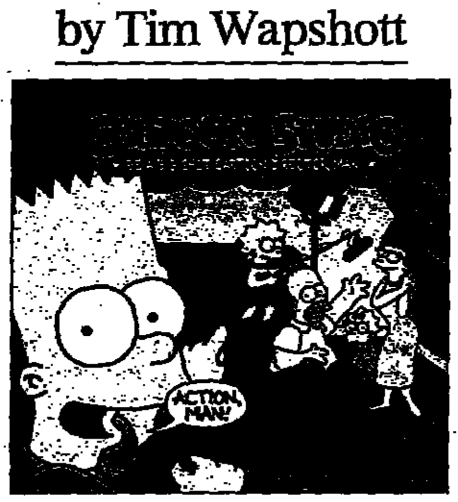
The **Simpsons Cartoon Studio**, from Fox Interactive, *is an exception to the rule. This lets you put together your own* original Simpson adventure in an electronic jigsaw puzzle.

Making a cartoon is a logical process. Just select a character and drag it around the frame and, as you do, it animates a selected action, such as walking, running or *looking suitably horrified. Having mapped out* the various entrances, actions and exits your players, at any point you can start building up the soundtrack with music snatches, sound effects and scores of familiar quotes from the Simpsons.

It is the one-liners, by the original actors used in the series, *which adds the zing. Bart gets most* entries, *including* "Hey, check this out man", "You'll like the nerd rodeo" and the classic "Bye, I'm off to get tattooed". Homer hits include "Ooh, pork rinds", "Watch me and maybe you'll learn something" and "Please, take the boy". *Lisa's trumps* are "I weep for the male gender", "How cartoony can you get?" and "Yes, I'm going to marry a carrot". Mum Marge specialises in a selection of trade-mark throaty grunts while baby Maggie makes five sucking noises. There are another 15 *or so characters from the* series to incorporate as well as countless backgrounds and props.

Cartoon studios first appeared about three years ago but few run as smoothly as this, which comes on dual-format Windows and *Mac CD-Rom*.

Equally irreverent are Beavis and Butt-Head, stars of the MTV series, who do not fair nearly so well in their latest video game appearance, **Beavis and Butt-head in Little Thingies**. From Viacom New Media, this title and two more due *soon* — **Weiner Takes All** and **Calling All Dorks** — are released under the "MTV Cheap Clicks" badge, which claims, inaccurately in this case, that "the best things in life are cheap". Each title sells for £9.99, which is £10 too much.



Make up your own Bart storyline in Fox's Simpsons Cartoon Studio

In Little Thingies, on Windows CD-Rom, you play as Beavis or Butt-Head in four banal platform games. The first is set in a fast-food *store where you fend off irate customers* by lugging burgers at them, and that is as exciting as it gets. Catching falling goods, matching pairs and aiming at passers-by make up the other three.

Sold as a multimedia experience for *younger children* is **Pink Panther's Passport to Peril**, from Anglia Multimedia. The slinky Pink Panther earned his place in cartoon history in the early 1960s, after making his debut in the title sequence of Blake Edward's film of the same name about the hapless *Inspector Clouseau*. Pink *Panther cartoons* went a little against the grain at the time by using highly stylised backgrounds and impeccable scores inspired by Henry Mancini's original Panther theme.

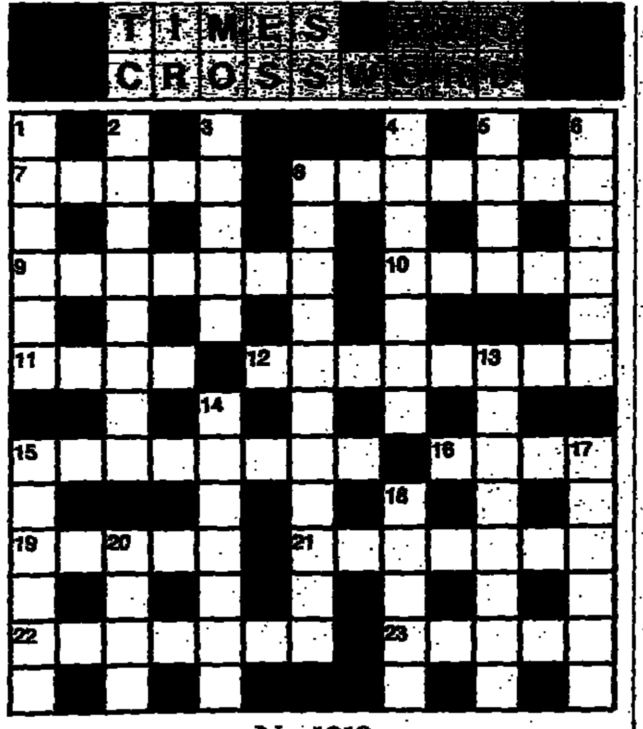
The Pink Panther theme is *the first thing you notice missing in this Pink Panther* title, instead the short overture is a poor stab at something in the Mancini mould.

A point and click adventure, you must direct the Panther through a succession of interactive scenes in his bid to save world peace. *The title runs sluggishly, voice characterisations are de*tached and, the major achievement by the developers, none of the original charm of the series has managed to dribble into any part of the Windows CD-Rom spin-off.

This is the last chance for any budding poets out there to enter **Cyberspace Thirty**, which closes after first post on Tuesday, February 18. Star prize is a Polaroid PDC-2000 digital camera, worth £2,650. The futuristic camera stores up to 40 24-bit photographs and is fully automatic. It works with either Mac or IBM compatible PC and comes with appropriate *software. Three runners-up* will win Polaroid 636 CU cameras, each worth £30, which take regular pictures.

To enter, you are invited to write a short love poem dedicated to Bill Gates, supernova of the computer age. You do not have to mean it. Your odes should be fresh, inspiring, *entertaining and, preferably, scan. Send your poems, together* with your name, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into *additional* correspondence.

"Save *money* on ergonomic mice and keyboards by gently warming your existing products in a hot oven (gas mark 6, 400F/200C) for three to four minutes." Top Tip from J. Sendel of Sheffield.



No 1018

ACROSS
7 Bootleg *whiskey* (US) (5)
8 Frankness (7)
9 War of the Worlds invader *(Wells)* (7)
10 Compositional idea (5)
11 A mammal; fasten up (4)
12 *Intense* white lamp (3,5)
15 *Give account of* (8)
16 Peruvian Indian (4)
19 Desert waterhole; pop group (5)
21 "Like a — in the sky" *(Carroll)* (3-4)
22 Mounted bullfighter (7)
23 Where Joan of Arc burned (5)

DOWN
1 — *Edison*, Gainsborough (6)
2 19C pauper regulations (4,4)
3 Singing group (5)
4 *Irregular datum* (7)
5 Booty (4)
6 Gain (6)
8 One chipping in (11)
13 Unstinting (8)
14 Study of metre and verse (7)
15 Is limp; sounds like *fruit with stones* (6)
17 Nobody in particular (6)
18 Native New Zealander (5)
20 Footwear item (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1017

ACROSS: 4 UHT 8 Earthen 9 Repel 10 Layer 11 Indulge 12 Modestly 14 Raft 15 Look 16 Innocent 20 Consign 21 Usage 23 Shift 24 Surreal 25 Yes

DOWN: 1 Vellum 2 Orly 3 Thorns 4 Unwillingness 5 Trade 6 Spillage 7 Fluent 13 Doornail 15 Locust 17 Oeuvre 18 Trebly 19 Mitty 22 Aden

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3397: Rueoc ed Irc by Le Gallois

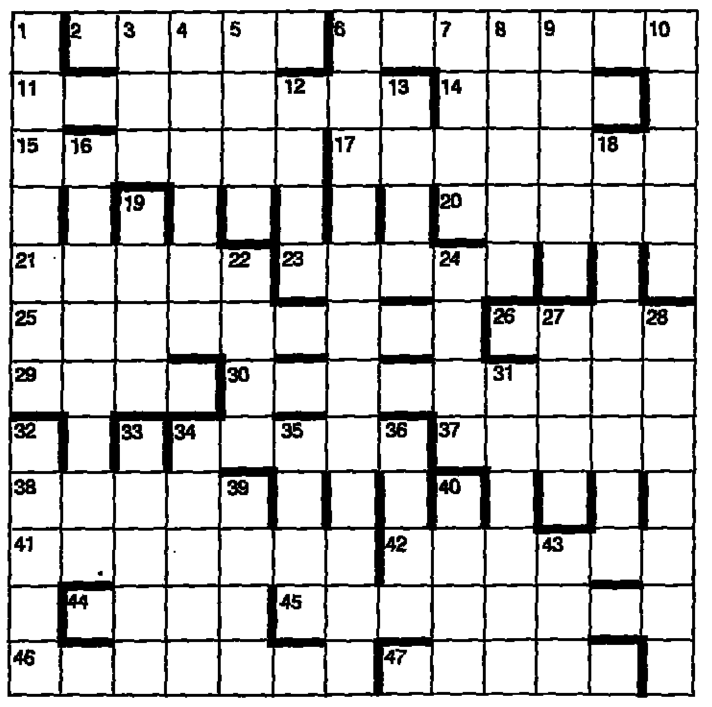
The peripheral lights are clued in random order and in a special way (clues A to H) leading to an indicator to the final entry. The relationship between the indicators and *lights can be found in appropriate form and place in the grid: these squares should be shaded.*

Nineteen of the remaining clues contain a misprint of one letter in the definition section. The misprints, in sequence, spell out an instructive quotation. Other clues are normal. Chambers is recommended, but does not give three proper nouns, nor half of the peripheral lights.

SPECIAL
A Fighter frees Norse God
B Enjoy hot day tanning
C Major faults hit bed testing
D Wise men could solve mystery
E Labour cannot win yet
F Dashing men all get one
G Red fury maybe ending icy spell
H When slow *mist* invests

ACROSS
2 See preamble (5)
6 See preamble (7)
11 Rupture takes long time abed (8)
14 Just Scottish Unionist in bank (4)
15 Pole perhaps returning from space circuit (6)
17 *Forward (and back) the French take poor Fifer* (7)
20 Character to doctor magic wheel (5)
21 Cart for meals so they say (5)
23 Disgusting old bachelor leaving the stage (5)
25 Tiny piece in plant cut methodically (9)
26 Mostly covering old moat (4)
29 Commune goes *to work at the end in gloom* (4)
30 *Sanction apparently to rip off goddess* (9)
34 Hears record of girl lost at the front (5)
37 Settle a mess (5)
38 Aster's aureole in a segment (5)
41 Strange items leading to cattle hybrid (7)
42 *Contrived approval in pupil* (6)
44 *Music store* (4)
45 White crystal formation old fool found in lake (8)
46 See preamble (7)
47 See preamble (5)

DOWN
1 See preamble (7)
3 *Girl leaves fragment of address* (3)
4 *Kick over traces and give another tart* (6)
5 *Promoted after one hand* (4)
6 They speed prematurely to patricians in distress (12)
7 It's a handicap to dress up (4)
8 Slow to assimilate hard part of Kant (5)
9 Ripe, mostly old and fat (5)
10 See preamble (5)
12 Poet's centre of serenity (4)
13 *Hard part to see* (4)
16 *Smooth* core to rugged Hellenic (8)
18 Measure to fatten and fortify (8)
19 Fag's expression of joy before annual return (4)
22 Game before dawn (4)
24 Sort of ramp after path leaves temple (4)
27 *Hazardous but without question convenient* (4)
28 See preamble (7)
31 *Plant concrete yard* (6)
32 See preamble (5)
33 He wrote one about secret hoard (5)
34 A hunger in little hospital? (5)
35 Head fascist changing at last (4)
36 Passages central to speed (4)
39 *One who supports at the end Eastern victory* (4)
40 *Head up after day of pain* (4)
43 Toy tub (3)



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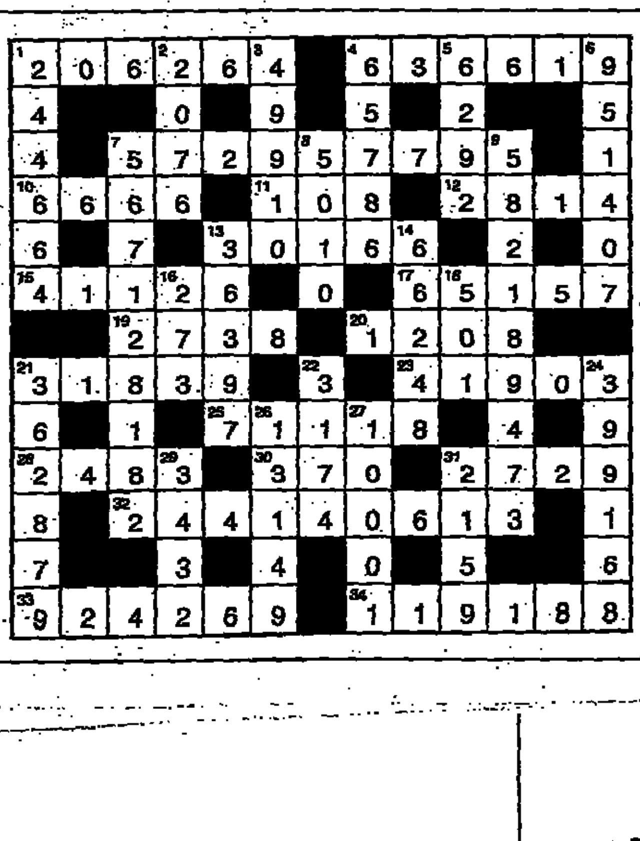


2	0	6	2	6	4	■	6	3	6	6	1	9
4	■	■	0	■	9	■	5	■	2	■	■	5
4	■	5	7	2	9	5	7	7	9	5	■	1
6	6	6	6	■	1	0	8	■	2	8	1	4
6	■	7	■	3	0	1	6	6	■	2	■	0
4	1	1	2	6	■	0	■	6	5	1	5	7
■	■	2	7	3	8	■	1	2	0	8	■	■
3	1	8	3	9	■	3	■	4	1	9	0	3
6	■	1	■	7	1	1	1	8	■	4	■	9
2	4	8	3	■	3	7	0	■	2	7	2	9
8	■	2	4	4	1	4	0	6	1	3	■	1
7	■	■	3	■	4	■	0	■	5	■	■	6
9	2	4	2	6	9	■	1	1	9	1	8	8

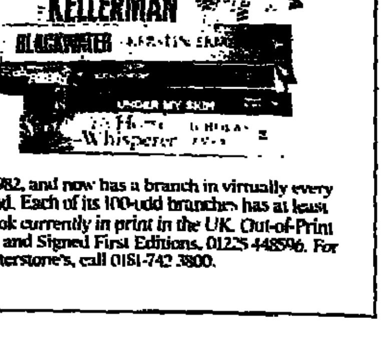
Solution to No 3394
Angles by RadGraDeg

A=15, B=19, C=5, D=25, E=1, F=9, G=3, H=7, I=17, J=4, K=21, L=13, M=11, N=16, O=23, P=14, Q=24, R=2, S=26, T=6, U=22, V=8, W=10, X=18, Y=12, Z=20.

The winner is: A.Green of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

The five runners-up are: Howard Cudmore of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Richard Levy of Newbury, Berkshire; T.Lockhart of Guildford, Surrey; S.Meacock of Winchester, Hampshire; M.White of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester

W
WATERSTONE'S



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LADIES

LADY advertising director, 40's, SW London, recently divorced. Likes a walk in the country, Sunday pub lunches, SciFi (not trekkie), jeans at weekends. Ready to jump (or at least hop!) again. Photo please. Box 3191

AM I out of your league? I'm attractive, slim, successful 39ish. At work I'm sophisticated but I'd rather dance on the tables when I go skiing. If you're fun, attractive & will laugh at your jokes, where are you? Yorks. Photo. Box No 3189 ☎

ANDOVER/Salisbury. 25 mile radius. Yes! People like you at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open seven days

ARE you an unattached gentleman looking for a woman who is full of fun, loves life, is independent, adventurous, stylish and sincere? I'm a 5'8", size 12/14, N/S, professional lady (47) who is unconstrained by convention but who behaves impeccably when appropriate. Flexibly Sussex based. Reply with photo to Box No 3224

ASIAN Lady In Geneva WLTM sincere gentleman aged 45-60, distinguished, well established in view of a long lasting relationship. Photo to be included in replies. Full info will be given after contact. Please Reply to Box No 3250

BARE necessities, designer, 51, living in North East with beautiful Georgian Listed home and lots of land is looking for affluent older gentleman to share cost and the romance of living together. Reply to Box No 3317 ☎

BEAUTIFUL long haired brunette, tall, slim, 28, with GSOH, WLTM very successful single tall attractive man 34-46 with a romantic, generous and sincere nature. GSOH is essential coupled with a love of the theatre, restaurants, travel the arts and good conversation. If this is you plse write Box 3289 London area (photo essential) ☎

BEAUTY and brains. Stunning blonde, 35, slim, graduate, cultured, sporty, outgoing, caring WLTM fit, well educated warm, genuine/sincere n/s chap with a romantic spirit and trad values to be her Valentine forever. London. Box No 3267 ☎

BE someone's Valentine with Elite Introductions. The Midlands No 1 service with over 500 local members. Call Diana now 0121 323 3314

BLEND of caring, warmth, attractive GSOH, jazz, Silverstone, 40's, N/S wanted to blend with this warm petite brunette. Cotswolds. Photo. Box 3240 ☎

BORED? Dispirited? Attractive (no really) woman, 41 would like to charm you into finding a new nest. Slim, educated & happy, I should like you best if you are 38-50, socially adept & prefer a night in the town to a walk in the country. London. Photo please. Box No 3091

BRIGHTON & Sussex - The Executive Club at Brighton Marina 01273 818100

BRISTOL calling. Meet someone special with Elite Introductions. Call Chris now in Bristol on 0117 973 6663 open 7 days

BROMLEY/SE London/Kent. Looking for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do. Call Elite Introductions 0181 658 7576

CAMBRIDGE: Professional lady aged 51 seeks interesting, caring companion for a variety of interests, including theatre, gardening, music. SOH essential. Reply to Box No 3245

CAMBRIDGE lady professional, lively, cultured, musical 40's. Meeting her might change your life. Reply Box No 3238

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

CAMBRIDGE/East Anglia. Join Elite Introductions locally. Freecall now 0500 103410

CHEMISTRY is the key but male 50+ must possess far reaching mind, the humour gene & a big heart. Brunette, love animals, coast/country in all weathers, literature, jazz, etc. London/E. Anglia. Photo plse. Box 3237

CHOICE of two attractive slim outgoing females seek genuine sincere professional males for romance. 30-45 London area. Photo please to Box No 3316

COULD you stand living with a small zoo, 2 adorable children, and a curvaceous brunette (40) who loves town & country equally (lives in Oxfordshire), can create a great meal as well as ski, scuba dive, etc. WLTM a cheerful, generous (with himself, etc), successful, courteous non workaholic with the sensuality of Donne & the personality of Lord Emsworth. Do write with a photo. Box 3211

DOCTOR Ross & Doctor Green - are you out there? Two N/S attractive prof brunettes requires a cut above the rest. N/S aged 33-43. London/Southeast. Photo. Box No 3305

E. SURREY/Sussex/Croydon. Local confidential service for people seeking genuine partners. Call Claire at Elite Introductions 01883 744405

EASTERN/ Persian lady London divorced, attractive young 50, petite, 5'2" fair complexion, affectionate, caring, animal lover. Seeks genuine sincere attractive tall prof man, solvent 45-60, London/Surrey. Recent photo to Box 3163.

EASTERN/ Persian lady London divorced, attractive young 50, petite, 5'2" fair complexion, affectionate, caring, animal lover. Seeks genuine sincere attractive tall prof man, solvent 45-60, London/Surrey. Recent photo to Box 3163.

ESSEX A Valentines offer awaits your call. Elite Introductions open 7 days 0800 854751

FERARRI 1960's, damaged 3 years ago, recently rebuilt. Enjoys cruising to concerts & gyms. One gentleman owner, excellent condition, log book available in the Southwest. Send photo/FSH to Box 3265

FOOTLOOSE and fancy - free! Distance no problem for me - young at heart lady early fifties and full of fun, loves the best things in life wishes to find an educated gentleman 50-60ish to share adventures and travel. Interesting letter & photo appreciated. Close Encounters Please Reply to Box No 3253

FUN to be with, slim, attractive, cultured 45 yr old independent & individual professional woman. Enjoys skiing, walking, theatre & dining. WLTM genuine caring man (38-50) with similar or compatible interests, 5'10" +. Photo essential. Glasgow area. Reply Box No 3232

GTR MANCHESTER - Surrounding area. Still looking for someone special? Elite Introductions can help call now 0161 626 3518 open 7 days

GULLIVER, tired of travelling, sought by Lilliputian lady, 49, to share civilised interests. East Sussex/Kent. Box No 3304

INDIVIDUAL, iconoclastic, creative & charming Brunette, prof, (Southwest), very warm, tactile and caring, well spoken and attractive. Country girl at heart, sporty (sailing, walking etc.) but cultured enjoying music, theatre, etc. WLTM similar male, call 40+ to share her dreams. Photo. Box No 3261

LADIES

INTELLIGENT, attractive woman, 36, WLTM strong humorous man who likes sport, travelling, music, theatre, cinema & literature for friendship, shared fun, & perhaps hearts. London based. Photo plse. Box 3319 ☎

LADY, attractive, 5'8", seeking friendship of well educated professional gentleman 50+ who enjoys travelling & has varied interests. Must be kind, considerate and have a GSOH & a zest for life! Reply Box 3164

LADY for all seasons - attractive, cultured early forties lady loves life, based West Country, would like to meet spontaneous well-educated gentleman 40-55 to share good times and togetherness Plse reply + photo Close Encounters Box 3255

LATE 40's, London based, intelligent, elegant, curvy, voluptuous blonde WLTM tall (over 6ft) intelligent, caring, successful man (50-65) for genuine lasting relationship. Photo appreciated. Box No 3190

LIKE to share a laugh? Attractive, petite prof female, 35, WLTM central/W. London male for evenings out, skiing holidays, walks. Photo to Box No 3290 ☎

LONDON/Enfield. Join Elite Introductions locally. Why not call us now 0181 374 4001

LOVELY, warm & caring lady, 37, intelligent, creative & successful, avid traveller, Francophile. Seeks handsome man with wit, charisma & tender loving arms. Hants/ Berks. Box No 3246 ☎

MIND'S EYE Introductions for Kent/ London prof singles. 12 months + for just £99. Promotion ends 28/2. 0800-435 922.

NEW life wanted. Attractive witty woman, 44 with 1 child, aged nearly 13. I enjoy books, cinema, music & food. WLTM tall, kind, easy going man. No Tories. Northwest or happy to relocate. Reply to Box No 3035

NEW to London. 5'6, slim, attractive, 45 year old lady, seeks prof male for outings. Photo please Reply to Box No 3295 ☎

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs Valentine we have 100's of quality ladies. Call now for free details - Elite Introductions 0115 937 6104

PATIENT, positive man 50+ needed by son to control wayward mother into culture & MGF, Surrey. Box No 3074 ☎

PRETTY blue eyed blonde, slim lady, GSOH, always loving sometimes challenging, professional, WLTM sincere, warm confident professional man, who enjoys socializing, music, sport, etc (48-55) Surrey/ London/Home Counties. Photo please. Reply Box No 3212 ☎

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

PRETTY, happy, young girl (31) WLTM sincere prof man for long term relationship. Chiswick. Photo. Reply Box No 3227 ☎

PRETTY, happy, young girl (31) WLTM sincere prof man for long term relationship. Chiswick. Photo. Reply Box No 3227 ☎

PROFESSIONAL lady seeks tall professional uppercase Oxbridge single attractive affluent 30/40 chap for socialising. Photo. Box No 3303

REDHEAD, slim, open & fun to be with, mid forties, career woman (but not obsessive), stylish & fit. Seeks like minded man (no fishermen) for laughter & cuddles. London/Home Counties. Photo/tel no. to Box No 3197 ☎

SLEEPING BEAUTY, slim, attractive, 30ish, vivacious, caring, genuine, VGSOH, WLTM romantic, successful, solvent handsome, N/S, fit, honest Prince Charming with VGSOH to enjoy the luxurious things in life with. White knights, millionaires & gendi welcome. Asleep in Surrey. Tel/photo please. Please Reply to Box No 3278

SLEEPING BEAUTY, slim, attractive, 30ish, vivacious, caring, genuine, VGSOH, WLTM romantic, successful, solvent handsome, N/S, fit, honest Prince Charming with VGSOH to enjoy the luxurious things in life with. White knights, millionaires & gendi welcome. Asleep in Surrey. Tel/photo please. Please Reply to Box No 3278

LADIES

SLENDER, attractive, erudite funloving woman 38 seeks similar tall military man. Please Reply to Box No 3302

STEVENAGE/all S G postcodes. Join Elite Introductions locally. Freecall 0500 103410

STRAWBERRY blonde, slim, solvent, wide interests including travel, golf & bridge WLTM a educated caring man 55-65 for close relationship. London/ Home Counties. Photo please to Box No 3217

STYLISH, intellectual, slim, 45, blonde, prof woman, n/s, likes travel, music, theatre, skiing & entertaining. Seeking a 45-55 prof, interesting man to enjoy a challenging, fun loving relationship. London/ Home Counties. Photo plse. Box 3271 ☎

STYLISH, slim, tall lady, 40s, likes walking, theatre, entertainment, travel, seeks tall caring prof male n/s, 40-55 for happy and sharing relationship. Yorkshire Please write with photo Box no 3239 ☎

SUSSEX, East and West. Still looking for the right partner? We can help. Call Nigel at Elite Introductions 01273 270975

TALL Charismatic, fun loving, mid-forties European lady, looking to meet humorous successful, sensitive, generous at heart gentleman, in New York and Riviera. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2899

LADIES

TERRIFIED Of advertising, but not wanting to spend the rest of my life alone. Appr. O.A.P., tall, youthful swed, academ. Like music, travel, dining & dancing but also cosy evenings at home with a book. Most of all WLTM someone to spend my incr. free time with. Would prefer you to be 6', but more imp. is a warm heart, reliab, full of life. Have no pref about location don't mind living in the country.

VERY attractive, slim, blonde lady, 49 WLTM tall handsome man, 50-65 whose looking for that special someone in his life to enjoy theatre, wining, dining, country walks etc. GSOH needed with open and sincere, kind, generous personality and these are the ingredients I'm looking for. London area. Photo essential Box No 3287 ☎

WEIRD wild, wonderful widow wonders when her wild Wombat (58-65) will wander into her web. Surrey based. Photo please to Box No 3230

WELL travelled, well educated & attractive English lady, 51 seeks cultured gentleman friend. London based. Photo please. Reply to Box No 3120

YORKSHIRE Humberside Lincs 100's of lovely ladies Call Elite Intros Freecall 0500 525240

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 142

GENTLEMEN

AFFECTIONATE 40 something seeks attractive, enthusiastic female for weekend walks along SW coastal path. Please reply with photo to Box 3296

AFFECTIONATE, London based bloke, balanced & secure, seeks female partner for long term growth, probably 40-50. Please Reply to Box No 3254

A LADY for me - am I asking too much? Adventurous be and get in touch. Laugh and talk - the best of last. Commitments we have, so need to trust. Happy with life, yet it's not enough. Just 50 now - though its tough, active and fit - I'm still young enough!! Midlands/Travel. Please Reply to Box No 3077

ALL-ROUND good find. This happy, fit, attractive, 5'8", warm, affectionate, man (45), young outlook S. Mids based seeks 30 something lady, real beauty with personality to match, no ties N/S. Box 3288 ☎

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

BON VIVANT of independent means footloose and 45 wishes to indulge successful lady. Send photo and fantasies. Please Reply Box 3310

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BROMLEY/SE London/Kent. Looking for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do. Call Elite Introductions 0181 658 7576

CARING & considerate widower, sporty (enjoys tennis & golf). Bristol based, WLTM warm lady, 50-58 slim, attractive, 5'7" ish, with elegant dress sense to share in a comfortable & relaxing lifestyle with possible long term relationship. Photo please to Box 3228

CENTRAL London successful gentleman, 41, fit, attractive and good looking, non orthodox Jewish, enjoys socialising, opera, concerts, w/ends away & at home, coffee drinking, lounging about, etc. seeks an attractive, lithe spirited, entirely uncommitted lady, max 35 to be passionate about. Photo & phone essential. Please Reply to Box No 3281

CENTRAL London successful gentleman, 41, fit, attractive and good-looking, non orthodox Jewish, enjoys socialising, opera, concerts, w/ends away & at home, coffee drinking, lounging about, etc. seeks an attractive, lithe spirited, entirely uncommitted lady, max 35 to be passionate about. Photo & phone essential. Please Reply to Box No 3281

COSMOPOLITAN, gentle, educated, healthy fifties man seeks lady, warm, loyal, attractive, preferable age 30-early 40's for a beautiful permanent relationship. Interests include classical music, theatre, books, films, jazz, nature, travel. Photo exchanged/returned. London-SouthEast. Reply Box No 3279

COSMOPOLITAN, gentle, educated, healthy fifties man seeks lady, warm, loyal, attractive, preferable age 30-early 40's for a beautiful permanent relationship. Interests include classical music, theatre, books, films, jazz, nature, travel. Photo exchanged/returned. London-SouthEast. Reply Box No 3279

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DISCERNING successful chap, 46, GSOH, varied interests, sexy, N/S, fit, frequently in London M25 WLTM educated lady for fun times & more. Box No 3185 ☎

GENTLEMEN

DO you like romance and sunshine on the beach? Well-travelled Oxon based good looking cultured professional man, 38, WLTM genuine bright lively lady up to 37 who enjoys life including sport, music and dining out. Letter & photo please to Close Encounters Box 3252

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GTR MANCHESTER - Surrounding area. Still looking for someone special? Elite Introductions can help call now 0161 626 3518 open 7 days

HANDSOME Blue-Eyed Solicitor, 39, with his own business WLTM attractive lady 25-40 for friendship & more. Oxon based. Photo please ensures a reply. Reply to Box No 3299

HAPPY, easy going male, 30, good looking, GSOH, N/S seeks attractive lady 22-33 GSOH to share good times & more. Sussex/London/Home Counties. Photo. Box No 3193

HERR Rolls Royce, 50's, 6'1", black hair, N/S, unattached university educated, London SW 1, property in Rome WLTM curvaceous younger lady who appreciates love, tenderness and fidelity for companionship or more. Please reply with photo to Box No 3313

I appreciate a slightly fuller figure with a maximum age of 35. O.K. 36. You'll appreciate a man hewn from a 6' block of raw material, polished by 4 decades of outrageous fortune. Send me your photo & phone & let's found our own mutual appreciation society. Box No 3040

INTELLIGENT successful City professional man, 40, kind, funny, tall, slim, fit. Wonderful lifestyle, SW London/South France seeks very attractive tall, slim n/s woman with intelligence, character and warmth. Photo and phone number essential. Please Reply to Box No 3209 ☎

INTELLIGENT successful City professional man, 40, kind, funny, tall, slim, fit. Wonderful lifestyle, SW London/South France seeks very attractive tall, slim n/s woman with intelligence, character and warmth. Photo and phone number essential. Please Reply to Box No 3209 ☎

INTELLIGENT 6', blue eyed widower WLTM similar wholesome match yearning for completeness & baby. Box No 3200 ☎

INTERNATIONAL businessman of property, 57 aged 46, well travelled WLTM petite lady 35-40 affluent no children or emotional baggage who is equally at home with pop or proms. Warwickshire/London Photo please Reply to Box 3207 ☎

GENTLEMEN

JOHN 6', blue eyed David for romantic happiness in Champagne this summer. To match humorous, zestful & youthful nature, need warm woman of substance, slim, 30ish. No fun being lonely. NorthWest. 3294 ☎

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MIND'S EYE Introductions for Kent/ London prof singles. 12 months + for just £99. Promotion ends 28/2. 0800-435 922.

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs Valentine we have 100's of quality gentlemen. For Free details Elite Introductions 0115 937 6104

QUIET, affectionate, semi-retired Oxford grad. church musician, keen walker, theatre, concerts etc. 58, slim 6ft, N/S, GSOH, living Bristol, WLTM fit, friendly, interesting lady, N/S, same age or younger, for friendship, possible permanent relationship. No fast cars or similar fancies! Box No 3298

SKI with me, late 40's comfortable businessman - great fun wants lady partner 20-40 for March holiday. Meet London. Photo. Box No 3292 ☎

SUCCESSFUL good looking young architect 34 seeks intelligent, good looking woman for a whole bunch of laughs. Ldn/ E.Anglia. Photo plse. Box 3199 ☎

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TALL, slim Cambridge graduate, Christian, semi-retired, 60ish looks 50, lecturer, charming Sussex home, genuinely unattached, enjoys literature, swimming, classical music, seeks marriage (possibly late family?) with younger lady (late 30's-early 50's), quiet, attractive, cultivated, N/S, trad values, not divorcee, Photo appreciated. Box No 3154

TO all Mercedes sports lovers. I am mischievous, fun, attractive; slim, divorced, 46 years old, prof country gent - very solvent, WLTM a female (32-45), slim, attractive, vivacious & outgoing with no real ties, to share lifes' adventures. Photo. Box No 3182

UNATTACHED doctor mid 40s, Sussex based works around London WLTM attractive n/s lady 20-40 for lasting friendship. Photo appreciated ALA Please Reply to Box No 3243 ☎

WANTED: Woman with animal attraction who will devote herself to the pursuit of my happiness. Reply to Box No 3097

WIDOWER, retired professional, 71 yr old, tall, N/S, healthy, seeks sharing, cherishing relationship with lady. Glos and bordering counties. Box 2910

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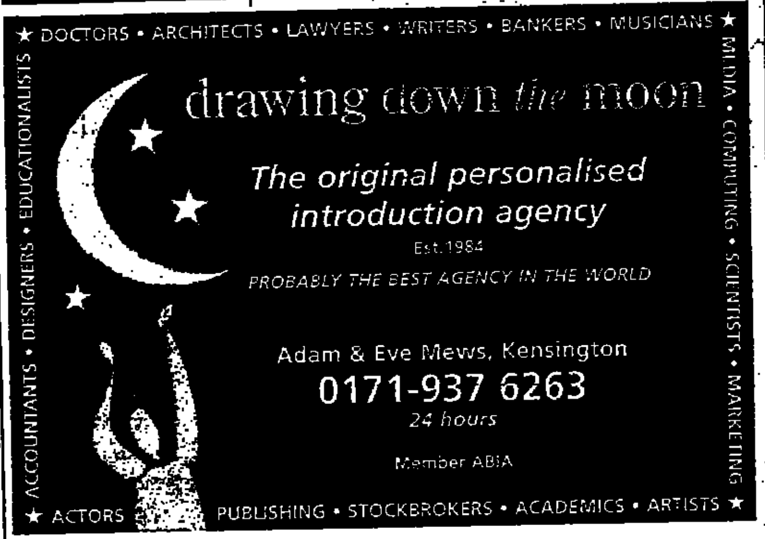
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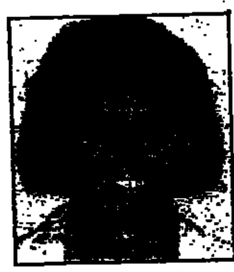

I've worked for The Executive Club for 11 years. I've made 1000's of friends nearly all of whom are now in committed relationships.

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Love, Linda

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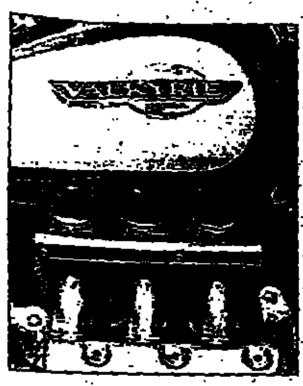


Honda's Valkyrie offers a ride to remember

Page 8

THE TIMES
CAR 97

Why the art of touring matters to BMW

Page 10

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 1997

'My classic car was stolen from my garage and I cannot get it back. It is scandalous'

APRILIA HELP SOUGHT

Dear Sir,

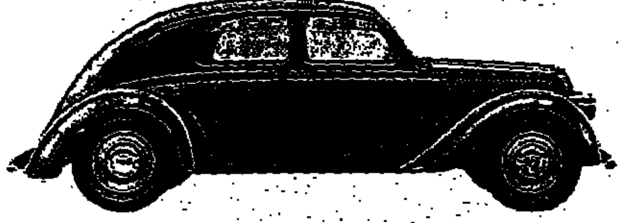
I am a new Club member as a consequence of buying a series 1 Aprilia in a state of considerable disarray, that is to say it was dismantled some years ago by someone with more enthusiasm than sense.

The object of this letter is to see if any member knows of the car.

It was originally red with black seats and was registered as FYW102 or DND500. The chassis number is 38-1015.

If you have any information I would be pleased to hear from you.

P. F. Willmer



This letter shocked David Watson; the Lancia Aprilia belonged to him. More than a year later — and after a thief has been fined — it has turned into a legal nightmare. **Tony Dawe reports**

The 1937 Aprilia — number 15 off the Italian production line — shortly after David Watson bought it in the 1960s. After spending more than £7,000 in legal costs, he still awaits its return

JOHN McLENNAN

David Watson could not believe his eyes when he opened his monthly magazine from the Lancia Motor Club. There, at the top of the Letters page, was a request for more information about a 1937 Lancia Aprilia from a man who had recently acquired it.

The classic car was the very one Watson had owned and loved for 25 years . . . the car he thought was still in a lock-up garage awaiting renovation.

A few telephone calls confirmed his worst fears: the Aprilia, number 15 off the Italian production line, had been stolen, sold to a dealer and bought in good faith by another enthusiast.

Watson made his shocking discovery 16 months ago. Today, he is still without his beloved car, even though the thief has been caught and fined. Next month he hopes a civil court will order its return, but that is not certain. His legal costs have reached £7,100.

The story reveals a serious legal loophole which could affect thousands of motorists and also underlines police reluctance to get involved if civil law can be invoked.

In a simple world, Peter Willmer, who bought the car, would have been able to check that it was his to acquire legally. Similarly, the police could have seized the car and returned it to Watson on discovering it had been stolen and he was the official owner. Neither of these things happened and it may require legislation to ensure that the story is not repeated time and again.

Watson's love affair with the Aprilia began in his late teens and by the time he was 21, in 1961, he had acquired a sleek midnight blue model, registration number DND 500.

Eventually, the big end went. Watson married and looked for a more reliable car. Even though he acquired another 1939 Aprilia, FYW 102, for spares, the renovation continued slowly. Watson and his family then moved from St Albans to Suffolk, where he built a workshop and dreamed of completing the restoration.

Watson already possessed the brown log books for both cars, but took the trouble to re-register them at his new address with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. The original Aprilia remained in a rented council garage in St Albans with the spares carefully arranged on racks.

"When I returned after reading the letter in the Lancia magazine, the car had disappeared, the racks were empty and all that was left were a few useless bits and an old piano which had also been stored there," Watson says.

It did not take the police long to piece together what had happened. Willmer, of Solihull, West Midlands, had bought the car from Tancred Barratt, a Lancia specialist of Callow Hill near Kidderminster, who had in turn bought it from David Janes. When interviewed by the police, Janes said he he been told he could clear the garage in St Albans because the rent had not been paid, although Watson had, in fact, maintained payments.

"At that point, amazingly, the investigation stopped," Watson says. "The Crown Prosecution Service informed me that no further action would be taken and, although West Midlands police had placed an order on the car forbidding Willmer to dispose of it, no effort had been made to return it to me."

Watson turned detective to disprove Janes's story, the police reopened inquiries and in November last year, Janes was found guilty of stealing the car and fined £200.

The official letter from Hertfordshire Police informing Watson of the outcome asked him to telephone "if there is any property you are waiting to be returned".

That should have been the end of the matter, but the case had become clouded because Willmer had paid Barrett thousands of pounds to continue the restoration and, not surprisingly, neither wanted to lose the money. Both men, together with Watson, were by then embroiled in a civil action. PC Mick Jackson of Hertfordshire Police says: "If a car is reported stolen and we find it, we would normally undertake to have it returned to the owner, but this procedure can be complicated by civil action."

Watson says: "I have had something stolen from me, yet I am the one who has had to prove all the points all the way. It is scandalous that there is no legal obligation on a dealer to check up on the background of a car."

However, as Barratt points out: "The public has a complete misconception that motor traders are privy to information which is not, in fact, available to them."

Neither would the DVLA have provided Willmer with the information. "The one very simple and clear-cut solution is for the DVLA to co-operate with prospective buyers," Willmer says. "We should be able to write to the agency to say we are considering buying a car and receive details about the registered keeper."

The agency says it is prohibited from providing this information by the Data Protection Act and can only confirm the information on its records to the registered keeper. The agency will give details to the police and holds information about stolen and scrapped cars. Similar data, based on insurance and leasing company records, can be accessed for a fee by vehicle tracking firms such as HPI. This is not, however, a fool-proof system.

In the Aprilia case, Willmer bought the car before Watson realised it had been stolen and thousands of other examples exist of cars being left off the stolen register.

"Somebody has to be the loser in these situations," says Mike Watkins, the AA's head of legal advice. "The law makes it clear that the innocent purchaser has to return to the car to the rightful owner and will then have to go back through the chain to try and recover his money."

Willmer accepts the position. "My dream is that Watson gets his car back and I get my money back from the dealer." Only the civil courts can decide if that will happen.

David Watson: the legal loophole he is caught in could affect thousands of owners if there is no new legislation

TRAFFIC DEBATE

What you want on the road ahead

Britons are more concerned about pollution than they are about congestion on the roads and overwhelmingly believe that improving public transport is the best way to tackle both problems, *writes Alan Copps*.

A majority say they would be prepared to pay more tax if it was devoted to attempts to solve the problems of pollution and congestion. Up to £2 per week was thought a reasonable price to pay for better transport by 40 per cent.

These are the main conclusions of an opinion poll carried out for *Car 97* in association with Autoglass, Britain's leading windscreen specialists, as part of our continuing debate on the future of driving.

Nearly half of those asked said they thought that lottery funds should be made available to improve transport.

But, despite the support for better public transport, few gave much consideration to changing the way in which they make journeys to work.

Of the main parties, 30 per cent supported Labour's transport policies, 25 per cent those of the Government and 10 per cent those of the Liberal Democrats.

There was very little support for the building of new roads. But a majority also opposed the efforts of protesters such as those who recently had to be cleared from underground tunnels on the route of the A30 in Devon.

However, 5 per cent of respondents correctly named "Swampy" as the leader of the protesters. Only half as many could name Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, and only one person from the sample of 1,024 correctly named Andrew Smith, Labour's transport spokesman, and David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrat spokesman.

SEE PAGE 5

WHAT ARE THE **BEST CARS** YOU CAN **BUY**?
Expert verdicts on **every** new car – **free** with the latest **Top Gear** magazine

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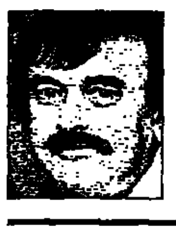
As with the vicar who was against sin, the Tories, Labour and the Lib Dems think road congestion is a terrible thing and something ought to be done

MPs in a traffic jam of platitudes

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

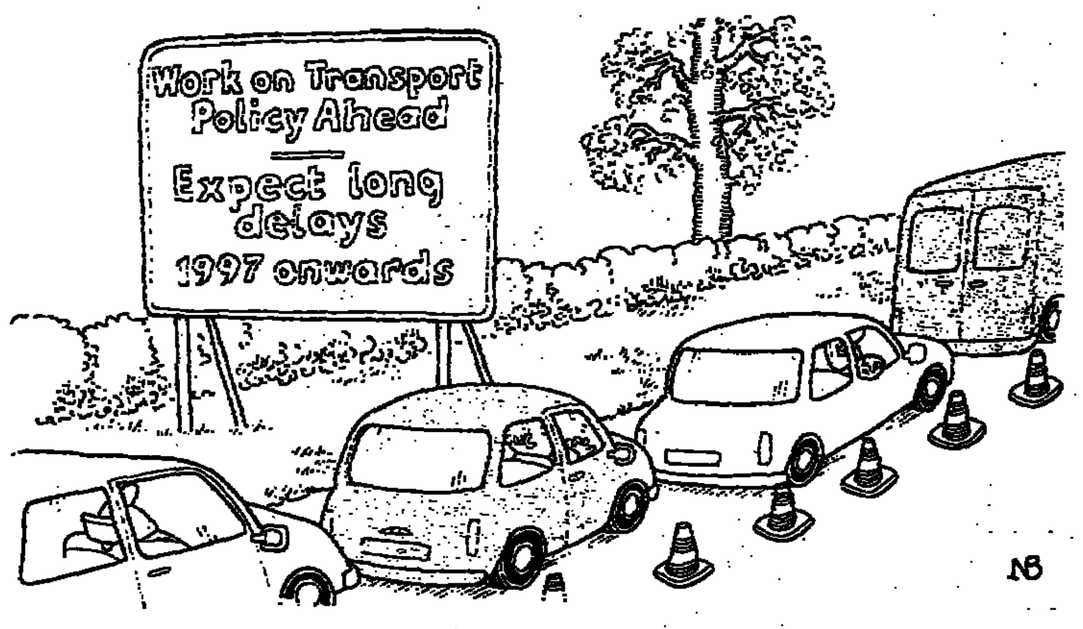
In the past three weeks politicians from each of the main parties have set out in *Car 97* a kind of manifesto for transport, explaining how they would reduce congestion, deal with vehicle pollution and transfer more traffic from road to rail. There are several common threads running through these articles, notably an *absence of detail and costing.*

There is also a large degree of unity: as with the vicar who was against sin, the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats think road congestion is a terrible thing and something ought to be done about it. But I have now read all their words at least twice and am unclear as to what exactly they are proposing, let alone what it would cost.

So far as can be discerned, the *main weapons all three parties will* deploy are the platitude and the cliché. These devices are the red cones of the transport debate, in that they pepper the landscape as far as the eye can see, often to no appparent purpose. Andrew Smith, for example, said that *Labour would "open real choice in* transport" and make public transport alternatives "accessible, reliable and convenient".

Now Mr Smith's party is likely to be in power come May 1, short of the entire Shadow Cabinet being caught in flagrante with the Spice Girls (though that could boost their youth vote). *But there is no* word as to how real choice would be opened, or how public transport would be made more convenient.

The reason is obvious. There is no public transport because the Tories have sold it. So is Labour going to schedule buses and trains and impose these schedules on the owners of bus companies and the railways? Is Labour planning to start its own bus company? Will London commuters find themselves *ferried along the Thames* courtesy of that famed former *seaman, Captain Prescott?*



We are not told. Interestingly, Mr Smith goes into some detail on a single matter: using technology to tell drivers where the jams are so that they can take avoiding action. Mr Smith *spends nearly a* third of his article on this matter, *surely an admission that there is* little chance of shifting traffic off the roads so we might as well give drivers more information and let them get on with it.

Don Foster of the Liberal Democrats is no less prone to platitudes, but does have one good idea. He is *surely right that the tax benefit on* company cars is absurd when *there is no tax relief on workers* using public transport. But his view that large cars should pay more vehicle excise duty than smaller ones, a differential to be financed by an increase of 4.5p on a litre of petrol, *is seriously flawed.*

For one thing, most owners of *large cars can afford the commen*surate costs. For another, yet more duty on fuel punishes everyone, especially elderly and low income people living in rural areas where cars are essential. Is Mr Foster going to provide a bus for my *hamlet of 15 houses?*

And so the Tories. Transport *Secretary Sir George Young* is also prone to platitudes, and of course it *is the present* Government that has given up much of its influence *over public transport* by selling it. But Sir George at least recognises *that the car is endemic* and that the notion of a ban on all new road *building* is plain lunacy.

And on one matter he has an *unlikely* bedfellow in Mr Foster. Both believe that more of the *decision-making* on transport should be at local level, rather than officials from the Whitehall monolith deciding whether Great Choking-under-Fumes should get a bypass. But half the councils in the country could pass a road scheme: who raises the money, and how?

One must not be churlish: the politicians who wrote for *Car 97* understand the issues and recognise the *scale of the problem. But* they ask more questions than they *answer* and their words take *me* back to what I have said before; only motorists can really solve the problem, by abandoning cars for some journeys in favour of a bus to the station and a train to work.

See page 5

Japan's year of the diamond

Kevin Eason on the carmaker whose founder rivalled the achievements of Henry Ford

MARQUE OF THE MONTH

TOYOTA

On the outside, it looks like any other Toyota, but it bristles with technology which could make it the safest car in the world. There is a warning system which sounds if the driver gets too drowsy, *automatic headlamp adjustment*, a system to see around "*blind*" *corners*, a *navigation* system and fire alarm.

Then there is an automatic braking system to stop the car ploughing into the one in front plus an airbag in the bonnet to protect pedestrians.

The experimental car is being evaluated in Japan now but the gadgets could be available by the turn of the century, says Toyota. That promise could be dismissed as just another from a carmaker which has devised technology which never seems to appear in the showrooms.

But Japan's biggest carmaker spends more on research *than any other and boasts it* can have a car from drawing *board to metal in an astonish*ing 18 months. So if it decides to introduce something like automatic braking, Toyota can have it on assembly lines in months rather than years.

This is the 60th anniversary of Toyota, which makes the business a relative youngster beside the pioneering names in motoring. Yet the company is now a colossus, making more than 3 million cars a year in Japan and more than 1 million in 25 countries around *the world, including Britain.*

The company has a reput*ation for conservatism* but when it decides to invest, it spends serious *money*, as the UK plants at Burnaston, Derbyshire, and Deeside, North Wales, can testify. Toyota has spent £1 billion on the car factory at Burnaston and the Deeside engine plant, and *pledged to double output of* cars with the addition of the *Corolla model to the Carina E* already produced here.

Toyota will be exporting around three-quarters of output, with mainland Europe the main target. And it is not just cars which will be big export earners, for Deeside sent around 16,000 complete engines to Turkey in 1995 and another 35,000 engine blocks and crankshafts back to Japan.

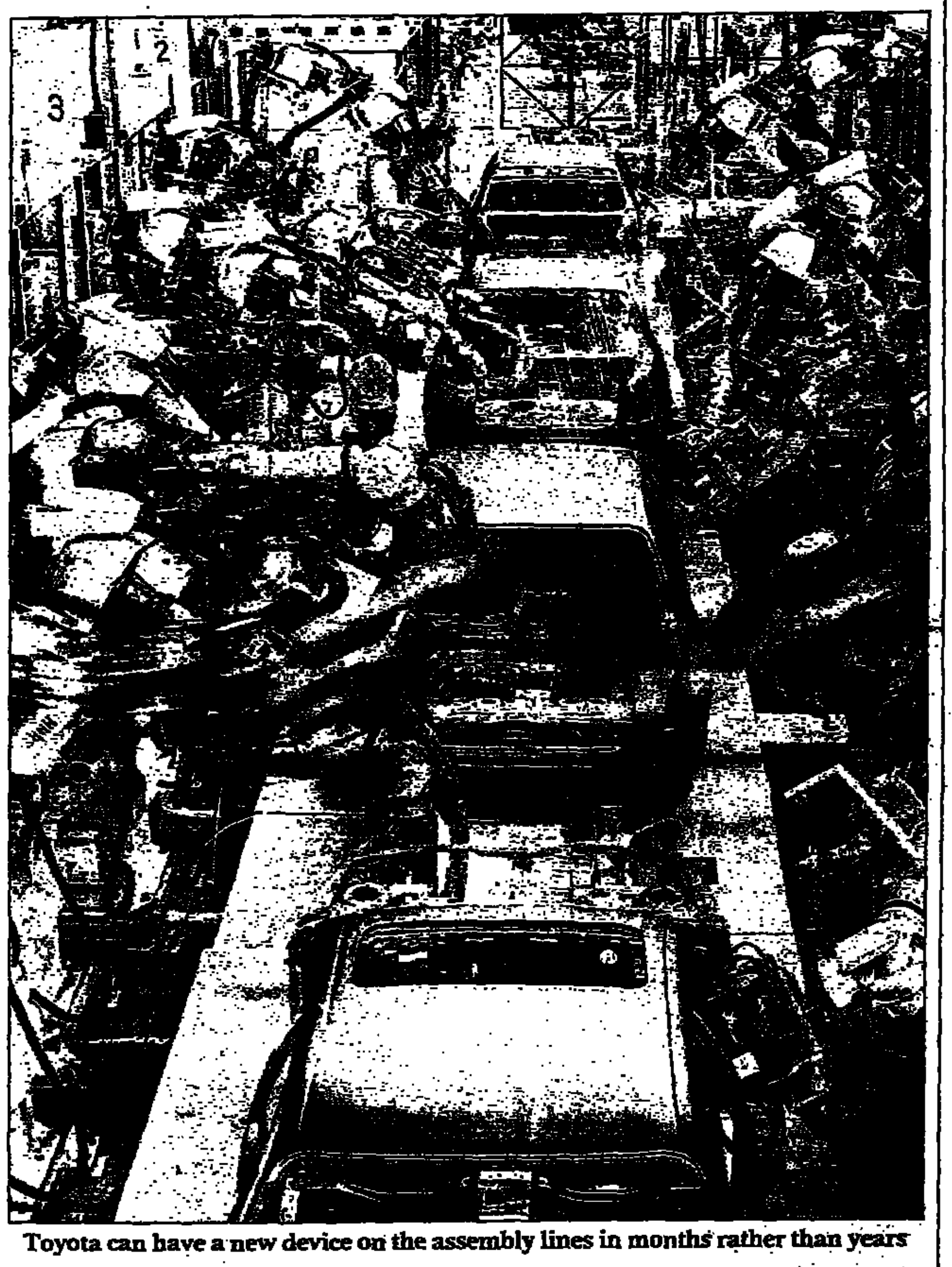
However, the company's veiled warning to the Government recently that prevarication over whether Britain joins the single currency could af*fect investment here should* not come as a surprise. Toyota *came to the UK because of its* access to the key European *markets as much as for rela*tively cheap labour and an efficient and enthusiastic workforce. A Britain outside Europe would be no use to any Japanese carmaker.

Inside Europe, Toyota will probably start production of a third model at Burnaston by the end of the century, a *replacement of the Starlet* mini, to raise production to a *potential* 360,000 *cars a year* and make Toyota as big a *manufacturer in this country* as Vauxhall.

The investment is a fitting chapter in the history of a company whose formation was inspired by Britain. The Toyoda family was in the weaving and textiles business until Kiichiro Toyoda travelled to England in 1929 to sign a deal for a new automatic loom. He liked the loom — but he liked potential of the car better. At the time, Ford was making 5 million cars a year in the *United States; car owner*ship in Japan was just 80,000, *almost all imports.*

Toyoda *set aside* a corner of his factory for engine design but it was not until 1935 his prototype A1, an aerodynamic 3.3-litre saloon, was produced and not until August, 1937 that the Toyota Motor Company was established, ready to make 1,500 cars a month.

Kiichiro toured the plant himself, often getting covered in oil, but devising the system that would revolutionise the industry — just-in-time delivery, so *that his factories did* not need to carry expensive *stockpiles of parts. That sys*tem is now used by just about *every carmaker and Toyota* theories for manufacturing are *now thought* as epochmaking as those of Henry Ford, a remarkable tribute to the man and the company.



Toyota can have a new device on the assembly lines in months rather than years

● **LONDON**

M4 J1-2 Major works and A4 closures in both directions.

A306 Hammersmith Bridge closed.

M1 Hendon area. Major works, no access A1.

A30 Hounslow. Single alternate *lane traffic on Staines Road.*

A406 Upper Edmonton. Major works.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M40 J1a-2. Roadworks with contraflow.

M27 J8-10. Roadworks with contraflow.

A303 Andover. Off-peak closures and full overnight lane closures.

M2 J5-6. Inside lane and hard shoulder closed.

M25 J6-10. Restrictions and lane *closures.*

● **SOUTH-WEST**

A35 *Christchurch* bypass. Lane closure.

M5 J13. Major works, only one lane.

M5 J17-20. Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge.

A303 Andover. Off-peak lane closures and full overnight closures between A3057 and A343.

A368 between Sandford and Banwell. Works and temporary lights.

● **MIDLANDS AND *EAST ANGLIA***

A38 south of Derby. Southern bypass construction.

A6 near M1, J24. Roadworks *and contraflow.*

A1 Great Ponton. Lane closures.

A500 Stoke; contraflow.

A134 Sudbury; single lane.

M5 J2. Major works.

● **NORTH**

A1M *J63.* 50mph speed limit.

M53 J2. Only one lane.

M1 J34-35. Down to two lanes with 50mph limit.

M1 J47. Major works with lane closures.

● **SCOTLAND**

A937 Montrose. Works and restrictions in both directions *on Hillside.*

M8 J2. Lane closures on roundabout.

A8 Princes Street, Edinburgh closed Eastbound.

A92 *Tay Road Bridge. Works* and lane closures.

A90 between Errol and St Madoes. One lane.

A77 Symington. Southbound lane closed just north of the Bogend Toll.

● **WALES**

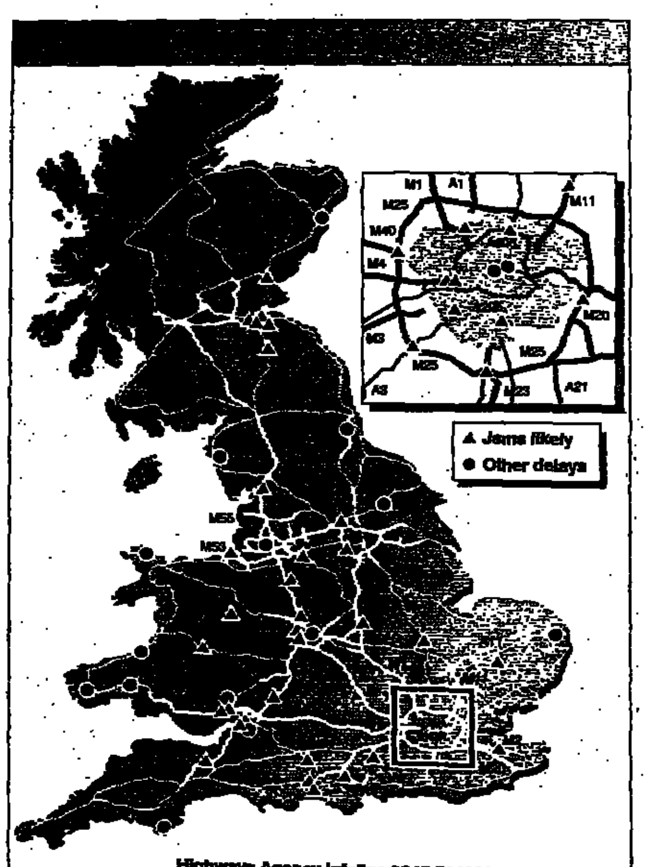
A482 Upper Aberaeron Bridge *closed.*

A48 Carmarthen. Temporary lights and lane restrictions.

A48 between Langstone and Penhow. Temporary lights.

A4076 Milford Haven. Temporary lights.

A472 *Contraflow between* Pontymoile and the Heron Roundabout.



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AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

PORSHE'S 911 WAS TO BE CALLED THE 901 UNTIL PEUGEOT CLAIMED THE RIGHTS TO ALL THREE DIGIT NUMBERS WITH A ZERO IN THE MIDDLE...
1930'S BANDLEADER JACK PAYNE GAVE EACH MEMBER OF HIS ORCHESTRA A SINGER AIRSTREAM
THE LONGEST TRAFFIC JAM ON THE M25 OCCURED ON 17 AUGUST 1988 AND STRETCHED 22 MILES FROM REIGATE TO LEATHERHEAD.
THE ARIANE SPACE ROCKET SOLID-FUEL MOTORS ARE BUILT BY A FIAT SUBSIDIARY.

VW's Mexican resistance

■ VOLKSWAGEN *is warning that it does not approve of* Beetles imported from Mexico. The company says that South *American versions do not meet European regulations*, although they can enter Britain as personal imports.

■ *BRIAN Rossiter* found a presidential note in *his* £22,000 Jeep Cherokee, the two millionth off the production line. The *Aberdeen oilman found a message in his glovebox from Gene M.* Smith, a Chrysler worker, who described how Bill Clinton had sat in Brian's Jeep at the plant in Toledo, Ohio, and enclosed a newspaper cutting with an account of the visit.

■ *THE PRICE* of a driving test is up from £28.50 to £31 from April 1, the first increase for two years. But the AA warns that all *new drivers have to spend £15 on the theory test as well.*

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PREVIA GX A 96 1own Hist Bal of Warr £15,975 C/house Toyota 0181-441 2250

PREVIA GX A 96N a/c U/spec 1/mls Hist CD Bal of Warr £19,795 C/house 0181-441 2250

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SUPRA Twin Turbo 94(M) blue/grey cloth 50k Personal import £25,000 ono for quick sale 01322 529647 T

SUPRA Twin Turbo 94M Manual Storm Blue/Ivory, CD, FTSH £29,995. 01946 832282.T

SUPRA Twin Turbo 96N Manual, 9,000m, met red, £38,499. Choice of Used New Model Celica GT's. 01483-234242 Open 7 Days

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95 N LEXUS LS 400, Cashmere gold, 14,000m £36,995
93 L LEXUS LS 400, Lucerne silver, 78,000m £23,995
96 N LEXUS GS 300 SPORT, astral black, 3,000m £32,995
95 M LEXUS GS 300, [illegible] grey, 38,000m £23,995
94 L SUPRA TURBO AUTO, [illegible], 1 owner £20,995
96 P RAV4 GX AUTO, 5-door, [illegible] green, 3,000 miles £16,995
96 P RAV4 GX, 5-door, alloys, CD, A-Bar, C/C, 4,000m £15,995
96 P RAV4 GX AUTO, 3-door, alloys, [illegible] green, 2,000m £15,995
96 P PASEO SI, leather, air con, 3,000m £13,495
96 P PICNIC GX AUTO, silver, air con, 3,000m £17,995
96 P PREVIA SOLAIRE SE AUTO, air con, CD, Delivery Miles £21,995
95 N PREVIA GX AUTO, air con, ABS, 19,000m £20,995
95 N PREVIA GX AUTO air con, ABS, 34,000m £19,995
93 L PREVIA GL AUTO, white, 16,000 miles £14,995
92 J PREVIA GL, champagne, high miles £13,995
96 P CAMRY 3.0 V6 (New Shape) grey metallic, 3,000m £22,495
96 P CELICA 2.0 Cabriolet, [illegible], black leather, 2,000m £24,995
96 N CELICA 2.0 Cabriolet, [illegible], black leather, 5,000m £24,995
96 N CELICA 1.8 ST, pure white, 5,000m £15,495
96 P CELICA ST, leather, Alloys, CD, 6,000m £17,495
95 M CELICA GT Automatic, [illegible], a/c, 12,000m £17,995
95 M MR2 T-BAR, black, 18,000m, ABS £17,995
94 L MR2 GT COUPE, [illegible], 23,000m £14,995
91 J MR2 GT COUPE, black, 33,000m £10,995
90 H MR2 T-BAR, blue, 34,000m £10,995
95 M TURBO Charged MR2, blue, 2,000m £10,995
96 P CARINA TURBO DIESEL, 5-door, Delivery Miles £13,495
96 P CARINA 1.8 CD AUTO, silver, 2,000m £14,495
96 P CARINA 1.8 GS AUTO, blue metallic, 2,000m £13,995
96 N CARINA 2.0 GLi Estate, 10,000m £12,995
96 P COLORADO 3.0 TD GX AUTO, British Green, 6,000m £25,495
96 N POWER VAN HI-TOP, fully boarded, 8,000m £9,999 + VAT
95 N HIACE COMPACT Diesel, grey, 16,000m £8,999 + VAT

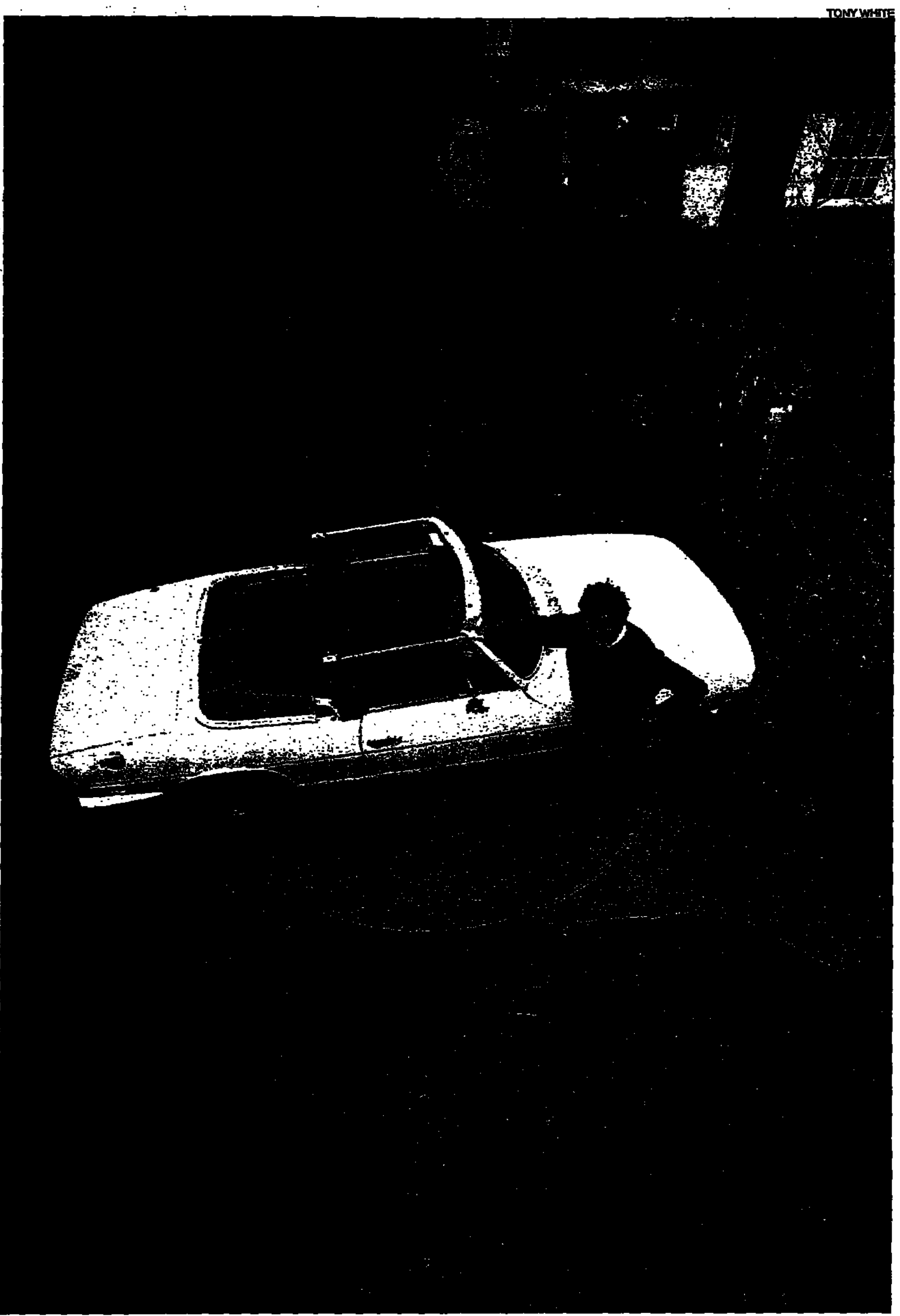
WANTED - LEXUS - SUPRA - MR2

Citywall 0171-251 3030

Vaughan Freeman on a roundabout solution to a couple's parking problems

Cars that go for a spin in the drive

TONY WHITE


Alec Wheeler and his turntable: "My wife usually opposes all of my gadgets, but she thinks this is marvellous"

A Heath Robinson-style cross between a titanic hi-fi turntable and an outsize Lazy Susan — the sort of thing usually seen rotating on the table in a Chinese restaurant — is the answer to Alec Wheeler's parking difficulties.

It may not be up to Euro-Disney proportions, and no youngsters would be prepared to queue hours to enjoy the ride, but the ingenious personalised roundabout has finally solved a problem that has plagued Alec for more than 20 years.

Alec and his wife, Juliet, keep a classic all-white Triumph Stag convertible, a VW Golf and a Fiat Panda, in their garage, a converted barn at their home in the historic and beautiful East Sussex village of Ditchling. Despite the quaint appeal of the village, at the foot of the South Downs, Ditchling is not impervious to rush-hour traffic as motorists pour through on their way to and from surrounding main roads. At weekends and during holidays car-bound sightseers swell the traffic, making matters even more difficult for the locals.

It was cheaper than moving house

All of which presents severe problems for all residents in the village, none more so than for the Wheelers. The entrance to their drive and garage is directly on the High Street. Their drive is about 70ft long, but because it is narrow and lined on both sides by brick walls, it would be impossible to do a three, four or even eight-point turn.

The result of this accident of architecture has long been that the Wheelers can either drive their cars into their garage nose first, but then have to reverse down the drive and backwards across a stream of traffic, or halt the traffic, and trickily reverse off the road and into their drive.

Now a motorised, 11ft diameter steel turntable has proved the answer. It goes at a leisurely one revolution per minute, via a system of hydraulics and a Terylene drive belt. It is possible to motor nose-first straight off the road and on to the drive, then on to the turntable. Either a remote control device similar to that from a television set or a wall-mounted button is then used to operate the turntable and turn it through 180 degress so that the car is facing the right way to drive out into the road again.

Alec, a retired dentist, says: "I had the idea of installing a turntable 23 years ago, but for some reason I got the measurements wrong and thought there would not be enough room between the walls."

Two years ago, when a fresh set of measurements were taken, it was realised that the idea would work, and the Wheelers set about finding their turntable. Step forward Brian Booker at the Alresford, Hampshire-based Car Parking Solutions. A circular pit was dug and the turntable positioned, mounted on 15 sealed-for-life bearings. The whole thing sits flush to the ground, and is powered by an electric motor sunk into the garage floor. The total cost of around £7,000 was a lot cheaper than moving house says Alec.

"The Stag is our longest car at about 13ft and there is 9ins to spare. We didn't feel it was an extravagant amount of money, and if we do ever decide to move, we feel the turntable will make it easier to sell. My wife usually opposes all of my gadgets, but she thinks this is marvellous."

It does not take long apparently to get the "feel" of driving on the turntable, and knowing when all four wheels are on it and the car in place, before starting the slow 180 degree tour.

Booker says: "Apart from it being an offence to reverse out on to a classified road, the last thing anyone wants to do is to back out from their drive into traffic when it is raining or their children are kicking up in the back."

As well as powered turntables, Car Parking Solutions also builds manual versions costing from £4,000. With these, the car is driven on, but instead of a motor, the owner has to hop out and push the car round by hand, which is not as daunting an operation as it might sound.

"It only takes a force of around 30lbs to start the turntable revolving with a car on it, and once it is moving a force of only 10lbs needs to be applied to keep it going," says Booker.

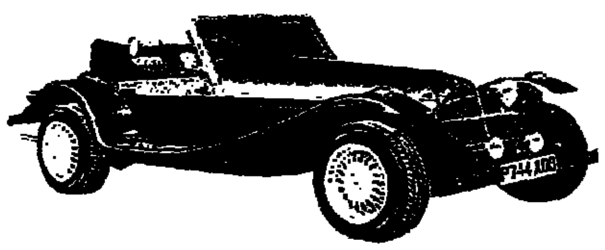
At so slow a speed, the turning car does not have the chance to build up unstoppable amounts of energy, which means that if the vehicle bumps up against anything or anyone it will be brought to a halt without doing any damage to itself or anything that is in its way.

"We have installed them in London, York, Winchester, Guernsey, Banbury and Bristol," says Booker. "They work really well."

Car Parking Solutions: 01962 733716.

That's £18,300. Gold bullion will do nicely

Kevin Eason finds a car firm that avoids exchange rate complications


The Marlin: deep-down instincts of an English sports car

For car buyers confused by the row over ecus, exchange rates and the abolition of the pound, one British company has devised a timeless solution — pay in gold. Marlin Engineering is inviting customers to forget about currency exchanges and offer to pay for its handmade sports cars in gold bullion.

The novel answer to confusion over the future of the pound is yet to catch on, but the company, based in Crediton, near Exeter in Devon, has already circulated foreign buyers telling them that the world's oldest item of exchange will do nicely. The current cost of a Marlin Hunter sports car is about £18,300 — or 87 ounces of gold at current rates.

Terry Matthews, who owns Marlin with her husband, Mark, says: "We have had so many worries over currency exchange and now the confusing debate over the future of the pound is causing even more concern for small companies like ours.

"We heard concern from people we met in the United States and decided there must be a way around all of this confusion, which is why we decided to value the cars in gold. Wherever you are in the world, gold has a recognised market price and we will accept gold as well as currency from now on."

Marlin's ten craftsmen make about 30 cars a year with about a dozen sent overseas as far as Australia, Italy, Canada and the US as exports. The 2 plus 2-seater Hunter is based around Ford components with chassis and bodywork a combination of glass fibre, aluminium and steel, which means the Hunter weighs in at just 750 kilogrammes.

Driver and passenger are protected by sitting deep in the safety cell of the semi-monocoque frame while there are also three-point seat belts. Engine is the 2-litre Ford puts into its Escort RS2000, although Marlin can instal a modified Rover V8 for extra oomph. The Hunter is to be joined later by a new BMW-powered two-seater, also costing about £18,000 and in the tradition of bespoke British sports cars, as the company sets its sights on expansion.

Terry adds: "Of course, we have no idea whether people will take us up on our idea, but we hope it shows that we are an enterprising company which is prepared to take time and trouble and think up new ways of doing business. With nobody seeming to know what will happen to our currency, we need something relatively stable in our lives. We lived with a gold standard for centuries and that is good enough for us."

Becoming established though is a struggle for tiny carmakers in Britain. Terry and Mark bought Marlin four years ago; even though Marlin was in business for 16 years before that, it was little known and the couple set about building an image which will appeal to those deep-down instincts motorists still have for a traditional English sports car.

"We have had customers cancelling an order for a Lotus Elise to buy a Hunter and a lot of people turn to us instead of buying a Morgan," says Terry. "But it is difficult for a small company to get the word out that we are here."

Terry Matthews: "Gold has a market price everywhere"

DOUG MARKE

Midland Auto Trader Four-Wheel Drive Day: an opportunity to discover your car's capabilities off the road and have fun at the same time

Car 97's mudlark of a reader offer

Still a chance to get off the road

THERE is still plenty of time for *Car 97* readers to win a day out in the glorious mud of East Anglia, even if you don't own a four-wheel-drive vehicle, writes *Alan Copps*. The Midland Auto Trader Four-Wheel-Drive Day, on March 1, is one of the best-organised and enjoyable events of its kind.

It's open to anyone who owns an off-road vehicle, but we are offering one lucky reader the chance to take part in a brand new Land Rover provided by Marshalls of Peterborough. The prize also includes accommodation for two and dinners on both Friday and Saturday night at the Haycock Hotel in Wansford, Peterborough, starting point for the specially-prepared route designed to test both driver and vehicle.

The off-road experience includes steep and rough hill climbs, narrow gulleys and deep water pits, but in eight years of use no vehicle has suffered damage. The idea is to give the 4x4 owner a true picture of his car's capability in a safe, off-road environment under expert supervision and to provide an entertaining and rewarding day out at the same time. Families are welcome.

4 WHEEL DRIVE DAY
Saturday 1st March 1997
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Midland Auto Trader
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Marshall Land Rover OF PETERBOROUGH

The event will also include a blindfold driving section, a reversing competition, archery, clay pigeon shooting and other fun events. It is not competitive, but there will be awards for the best efforts.

Marshalls will explain the object of each exercise and give advice. There's plenty of water around the course, but the aim is to avoid drowning engines and send drivers away with enough knowledge to get themselves or others out of trouble should they ever need to use their vehicles in earnest.

To enter our competition simply answer this question: In what year was the first Land Rover unveiled?

Send your entry to Off-Road Drive, *Car 97*, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Closing date is February 20. The winner will be drawn from all correct entries. Usual competition rules apply.

If you're not lucky enough to win but have your own four-wheel-drive, contact Cranium Communications, 5 St Peter's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2PQ (01780 66966). Send a cheque for £95 to the above address to cover participation for a driver and co-driver. The cost includes dinner for both at the Haycock Hotel on Saturday. Closing date for paid entries is February 25.

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[illegible] POLITICIANS, THE ROAD YOU WANT BRITAIN TO GO DOWN

We'll pay, but must stay in the driving seat

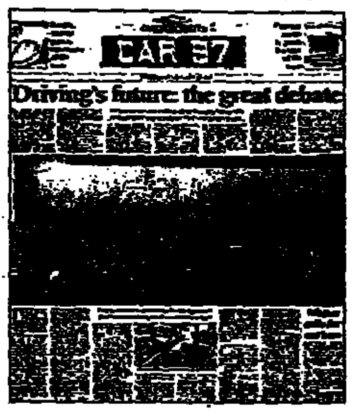
Commentary by **Alan Copps**, Editor of *Car 97*

Volunteering to pay more tax is not what you expect of the great British electorate. But nearly six in ten would do so if they then could see the money spent on curbing pollution and easing congestion, says an opinion poll conducted for *Car 97* as part of our debate on the future of driving.

That might sound like a good result for politicians about to launch into a general election campaign, but there is a downside. However much we bemoan our fate as we choke in the latest start-up, we are very reluctant to give up our overwhelming reliance on the car or consider alternative forms of transport for our regular journeys. Of those who don't own or have use of a car at present — our sample reflected the population at large rather than just drivers — one in three said the car was their preferred mode of transport, far more than any other form.

Carmakers protest, in the face of an avalanche of new legislation, that there is little further they can go in filtering toxins and pollutants from the exhaust of the internal combustion engine. The harmful emissions of a new Ford Fiesta, for example, are said to be 90 per cent less than the same model a decade ago. Yet pollution remains our greatest concern, putting congestion firmly into second place. Perhaps public perception has simply not caught up with manufacturers' claims or perhaps, public opinion simply doesn't believe them. The other possibility is that concern about pollution is more politically correct than concern about congestion: "We must stop poisoning children" is more socially acceptable than "We must stop being late for appointments".

Whatever way you look at it, improving public transport is seen as the key to making life on the road bearable again. Those questioned placed it as the top priority for an incoming government as the best way to ease congestion. And even when asked how to cut pollution — despite the commonly shared impression of filthy buses belching black diesel fumes — it was put in second place behind the politically difficult idea of subsidising cleaner alternative fuels.



Over the past weeks, Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, Andrew Smith, Labour's spokesman, and Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat whose Traffic Reduction Bill will oblige local authorities to grasp this nettle, have all favoured an integrated transport policy. But they have been vague about how to achieve it. The responses from our sample suggest that there are votes to be won by offering more concrete policies.

While the majority of those questioned, quite sensibly, accepted that concerns such as crime, health, education and the economy must take priority over transport, a surprising 33 per cent said it was more important than Europe, so heavily talked up as the key issue of the forthcoming election.

Alternative lifestyles which would reduce the need for many car journeys are growing in importance. Working from home — encouraged by Nick Reilly, chairman of Vauxhall — was seen as the second best way to tackle road congestion, although shopping by computer held less attraction. Here the poll responses echo the thinking of industry leaders. Gary Lubner, managing director of Autoglass which sponsored the poll, said he thought the impact of such changes had been underestimated by both politicians and public.

"We could achieve our environmental objectives by switching to 'virtual travel'. For nine in ten of us, the car is the main way we get about: see friends, commute to work, travel to shops. Research suggests that by 2010, instead of making 19 car journeys a week on average, we'll make 12 by car and seven by computer."

There was strong support for getting freight off the roads and for keeping cars out of town centres, but little for building more roads or banning cars completely. Despite the professed willingness to pay more in taxes, the most obvious pay-as-you-drive measure — road tolls — met with little enthusiasm.

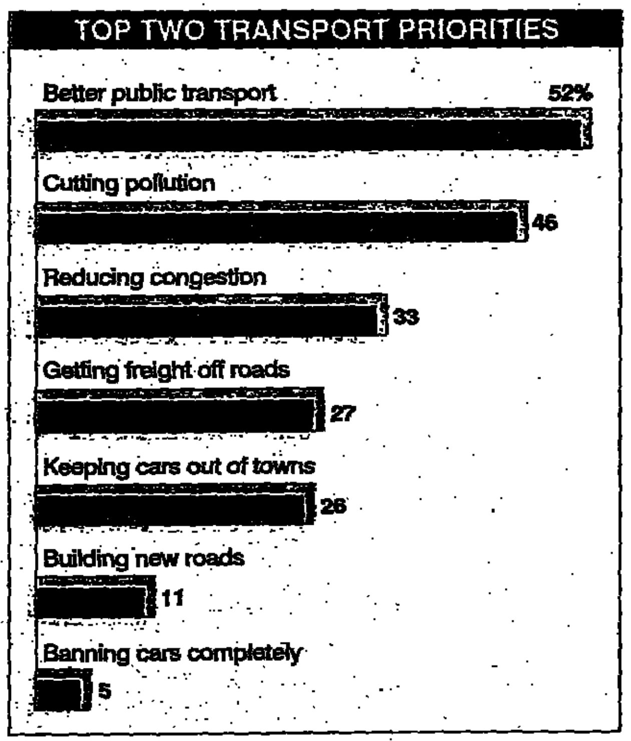
ROMILLY LOCKYER/IMAGE BANK

Blurred visions: spokesmen for the main political parties favour an integrated transport policy, but have been vague about how to achieve it. Our survey suggests there could be votes to be won by offering more concrete policies

It's more urgent than Europe

Better public transport and cutting pollution are top demands in survey

TOP TWO TRANSPORT PRIORITIES



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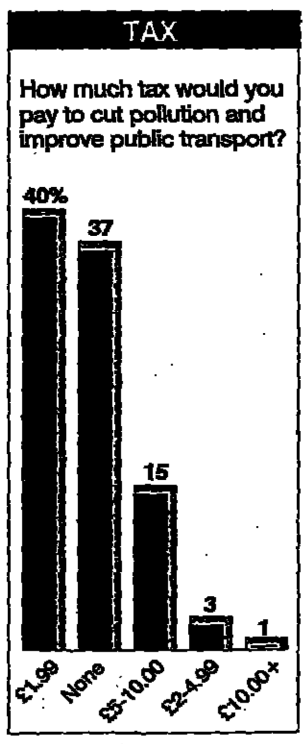

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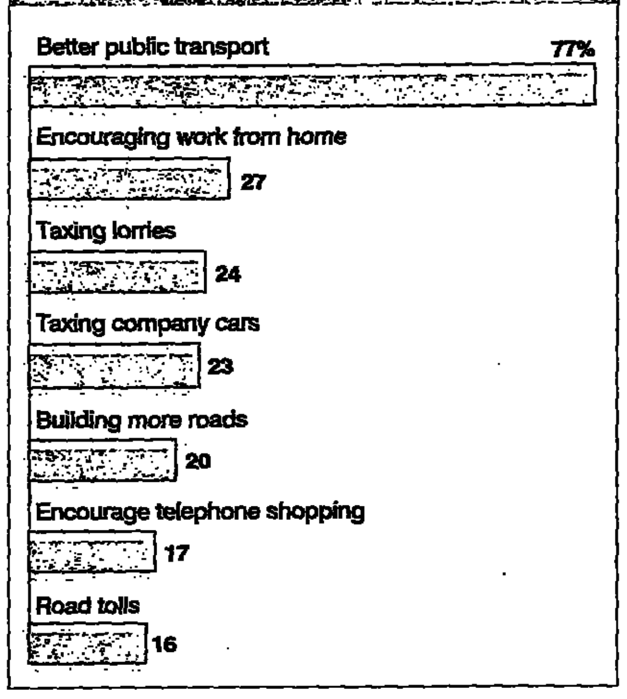

We first asked where transport policy should come in the priorities of a government. Respondents were given three choices: was it more important, equally important or less important than a range of other policies.

Crime, the economy, health, education and employment were all regarded as more important. But a third of those questioned said it was more important than policy on Europe and another 23 per cent ranked it equal in importance. Majorities also rated it at least as important as policies on industry and defence.

Asked which party's transport policies they most supported, 30 per cent said Labour and 25 per cent Conservative, but there was a high proportion of "Don't knows" at 18 per cent. Ten per cent supported the Liberal Democrats, 7 per cent the Green Party and 6 per cent Friends of the Earth. Three per cent backed the underground protesters in Devon, whose removal from the site of the A30 improvement had been widely publicised just before the poll was taken.

The leader of those protesters was the most recognised character in the next series of questions when we asked people to name the transport spokesperson for various parties. Five per cent correctly named "Swampy", leader of

AUTOGLASS

the protesters, and 3 per cent (26 of the 1,024 people questioned) correctly named Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport. But only one person named each of Andrew Smith (Labour), David Chidgey (Liberal Democrat) and David Taylor (Green party).

We then asked people to suggest the top two priorities for the Government's transport policy, a question which highlighted differences between the sexes and age ranges. Improving public transport was given top priority by 34 per cent, but support for it was much stronger among the young and middle aged (between 37 and 42 per cent) than among the over-55s, who might be thought to be more dependent upon it (an average of 23 per cent). The latter age group were much more in favour of getting freight off the roads. Cutting pollution was chosen as first priority by 22 per cent, far more by women (26 per cent) than men (18 per cent).

Regional variations were also strongly marked in answers to this question. In London, 52 per cent chose improving public transport, while in Wales only 15 per cent said it should be top priority. There was especially strong support for cutting pollution in Wales (30 per cent) and the South-East and West Midlands (both 25 per cent).

In London, reducing congestion was named as top priority by only 8 per cent and keeping cars out of the centre was favoured by only 5 per cent. Yet congestion figured high among the concerns of people in some largely rural areas such as East Anglia (17 per cent) and the South-West (16 per cent). It was highest of all in the North-East (21 per cent). Building more roads was given very low priority; only in Scotland did support for it reach double figures.

When the figures were analysed by driving status some remarkable differences appeared. Support for better public transport was highest among company car drivers, 60 per cent of whom put it in their top two priorities and lowest among those who said they did not have a car to use, 46 per cent.

When asked how the Government should tackle congestion, better public transport was again the most popular answer by a long way (77 per cent). The second choice was to encourage working from home, favoured by 27 per cent overall, but by more men (30 per cent) than women (24 per cent). Support for working from home was especially strong in the East Midlands, Scotland and the North-East (32 to 36 per cent), but the idea proved unpopular in the rural areas of East Anglia (15 per cent) and the South-West (16 per cent).

Recognise them? Andrew Smith, left, and "Swampy"

There were strong regional variations in all these suggested remedies. Support for taxing lorries varied from 34 per cent in the East Midlands to only 17 per cent in the West Midlands. In fact, the East Midlands seemed particularly keen on taxing people, also giving strongest support to taxing company car drivers (32 per cent) an idea favoured by only 12 per cent in Wales.

Support for introducing road tolls was 16 per cent overall, but went up to 25 per cent in the North-East. It was lowest (at 10 per cent) in the West Midlands, where work has already started on building the North Birmingham relief road, Britain's first privately-financed toll road.

When it came to tackling pollution, the idea of subsidising clean alternative fuels was even more popular than improving public transport, attracting 61 per cent support spread very evenly across all areas. There was also widespread support for more park-and-ride schemes (48 per cent) and stricter penalties for cars that aren't properly serviced (45 per cent).

Asked how much extra tax they would be prepared to pay each week to solve transport problems, 37 per cent said they wouldn't pay any more and 4 per cent didn't know. That left a total of 59 per cent prepared to pay more, 40 per cent choosing up to £1.99 extra, 15 per cent up to £4.99, 3 per cent £5-£10 and 1 per cent £10-plus. Willingness to pay was greater among the young and evenly distributed across the country.

However, when given a choice of methods to pay for improvements, the greatest number (45 per cent) suggested that National Lottery money should be used.

Asked which factor, apart from price, was most important in their choice of car, 36 per cent said economy, 15 per cent comfort and 11 per cent performance. Only 2 per cent named safety and another 2 per cent reliability.

The poll, based on a representative sample of adults, was conducted by telephone by Audience Selection from February 7-9. It was sponsored by Autoglass, Britain's leading windscreen specialists.

Question the RAC's experts

READERS of *Car 97* who want to continue our Great Debate on road congestion with the experts can attend the RAC's Centenary Conference, "A Smarter Way Ahead", on Tuesday at the Commonwealth Conference Centre, Kensington, London.

Starting at 9.30am, and chaired by John Humphrys from the BBC's *Today* programme, speakers include Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, his Labour Shadow Andrew Smith, Fiona Reynolds, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Sir Robert Horton, chairman of Railtrack. A panel of experts including Ernie Thompson, the chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, and Charles Secrett, director of Friends of the Earth, will be available to take questions.

Edmund King, the RAC's head of campaigns, says: "The audience will include respected academics, industrialists and experts from the world of transport and the environment to help find a way forward for our transport system. Easing congestion on roads and improving public transport to improve personal mobility for us all is one of the greatest challenges we all face for the millennium. Perhaps this conference will come up with some answers and contribute in some way to *Car 97's* Great Debate."

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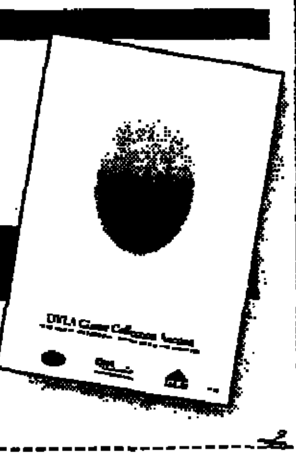

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CARMAGE: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Mazda's new 323s: averagely brisk, averagely refined, and averagely entertaining, the company seems to believe that mass market equals bland

Easily forgotten

If you work for Mazda in Britain there's every reason to be optimistic, *writes Helen Mound*. Sales last year were 49 per cent up on 1995 and customers are among the most loyal.

But when comparing the new 323 to the Audi A3 and Volkswagen Golf, Chris Owens, marketing director for Mazda Cars UK, is possibly over-optimistic. For the 323 has a long way to go before it can compete with sophisticated German hatchbacks. It's more a rival for models such as the Vauxhall Astra, Renault Megane, Peugeot 306 and Ford Escort.

The 323 is Mazda UK's top-selling model and the new version is spearheading the company's attempt to break out of the niche markets it has won through models such as the rotary engined RX-7 and adorable little MX-5 sports cars. It wants to double its 1 per cent share of the British market. Last year it sold 9,488 323s, although the five-door was the only version available. Now there are three: the three-door hatchback with 1.3 or 1.5-litre engines is brand new. The 1.5-litre four-door saloon is a restyled version of the old model. And the five-door hatchback, expected to remain the most popular version, has received a handful of changes (such as a high-level brake light) and is offered with 1.5, 1.8 or 2-litre V6 engines. There are four trim levels and the 1.8 has the option of an automatic gearbox.

Take a look inside the new 323 and Mazda's problem is immediately evident. The company appears to believe that mass market equals ordinary, even bland. Sitting behind the wheel of any version is a staggeringly forgettable experience.

Mazda came up with the cute two-seater that started the roadster revolution and spent millions of yen developing a car door that makes the right noise when it's slammed; surely it's able to produce a hatchback with a few features to stand out from the crowd?

The exception to the "boring is best" theme of the new 323s is the five-door hatchback, a coupé-ish design dating from the late Eighties when Mazda was feeling braver.

All versions boast high specification — that old chestnut from Japanese manufacturers, "no personality or style, but loads of equipment". Driver airbag, engine immobiliser, power steering, central locking and electric windows are standard across the range; as is a three-year warranty and Mazda European Assistance.

The new 323s drive the way they're styled — uninspiringly. They're averagely brisk, averagely refined, and averagely entertaining, apart, that is, from the ZXi, which has enough power in its engine and poise in its chassis (both unchanged from the "old" model) to stimulate keen drivers. Marketing will rely heavily on it to infer excitement in the rest of the range.

ROAD TEST

Mazda 323
Engines: Four-cylinder 1324cc gives 75bhp; V6 1995cc 147bhp.
Performance: (1324cc) 102mph, 0-62mph in 13.3 sec; (V6) 130mph, 9.4 sec
Economy: (1324cc) Urban 29.7mpg; extra urban 45.6mpg; combined 38.2mpg. (V6) 21.2mpg; 37.2mpg; 29.1mpg.
Price: £11,360-£17,860.

FORECOURT

■ A TRENDY supermini that matches bags of room inside with small outside dimensions, the Fiat Punto, launched in 1994, is stylish, quiet and handles well, reports *CAP Black Book*.

There is an excellent boot for shopping, plus good interior room, and the controls are well laid out. Look for cars featuring the optional six-speed gearbox. Best buy is the 94 M-reg 55 SX five-door for around £5,000.

There are problems though, of poor seats, heavy steering at low speed and a disappointingly choppy ride in town, while build quality is not quite up to the Micra/Corsa standard.

The Punto comes with a warning: Do not on any account lose your master ignition key as it will cost hundreds of pounds to replace.

The other worry, about [illegible] is one of safety, highlighted in the recently published Transport Research Laboratory tests as part of the European New Car Assessment Programme.

The Punto offered average protection in the crash tests, scoring above similar sized cars such as the Rover 100 (formerly the Metro), but it did not do as well as the Ford Fiesta and the VW Polo.

In a head-on crash, the driver's head was moderately well protected, though the results found a serious risk of foot and ankle injuries. In a side impact, the Punto protected the abdomen area well but not the chest area as effectively.

■ The Seat Ibiza (1994-97) matches the build quality of its German VW parent with attractive looks, good interior space and value for money.

The ride is fairly harsh, and cars with smaller engines do not have the split rear seats that are so useful for carrying odd-shaped loads.

Few would argue that this is Seat's best car to date, a huge improvement over the old Ibiza, and the diesel is a good one, though power steering would be welcome. Best buy is the 1.4 CLS 1995 N-reg five-door for around £6,000. Avoid cars with above-average mileages, Gtis which have led a hard life, and check for cam wear on the 1-litre models.

SPARE PARTS

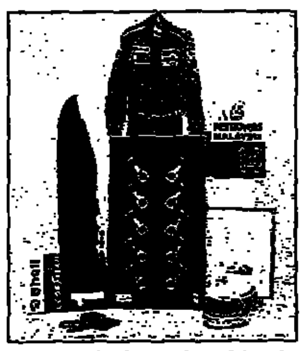
■ CHEVROLET'S Corvette is coming to Britain this year. Produce a 173mph top speed from a 5.7-litre V8, the Mk5 Corvette will cost around £35,000 from General Motors' dealers Bauer and Millett in Manchester (0161-831 7447).

■ TOYOTA has gone all "energetic" on us, according to its latest news. The car company, now big in Britain, is sponsoring a rock tour of a dozen countries by Phil Collins, the small but perfectly formed ex-Genesis singer.

■ TOURING is the theme of a campaign to prevent theft of 5,000 caravans worth £12 million annually. Advice comes from the RAC *Camping and Caravan Great Britain and Ireland* guide, which also offers help on maintenance, and lists nearly 3,000 sites with addresses and quality ratings. The guide is available, price £7.99, from bookshops.

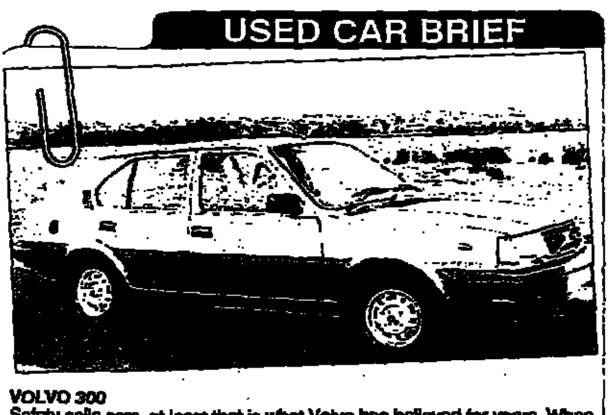
RAC

■ ENGINE bits which took Michael Schumacher to grand prix victories go on sale at auction on March 1 at the Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey. Raising money for the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, the sale includes 10 pistons from Schumacher's 1996 Ferrari F1 car, the front wing from Martin Brundle's Jordan, Mika Hakkinen's McLaren race overalls and UK Touring Car champion Will Hoy's helmet.



Lots to bid for at Brooklands

USED CAR BRIEF



VOLVO 300
Safety sells cars, at least that is what Volvo has believed for years. When the Volvo 300 Series was launched in 1976, it was thought supremely dull despite having side impact beams and crush zones years before other cars. The first 343 used a Renault 1.4-litre engine and three-speed Variomatic continuous variable transmission likened to rubber-band power. The range includes three and five-door hatchbacks, saloon, 1.4, 1.7 and 2-litre petrol engines and four and five speed manual gearboxes.

✓ **GOOD NEWS** The 300 is quintessential, old-style Volvo, hugely safe for its time, well built, stolid even. Virtuous rather than virile, the 300 goes on and on, and keeps its value remarkably well probably because lots of drivers like safety.

⊘ **BAD NEWS** Boringly the butt of many an anti-Volvo joke. Early cars are now old indeed and can be prone to rust, especially around the wings, tailgate and door pillars. Beware too problems with the head gasket (overheating), worn engine mountings and failing water pump.

LOOK FOR Cars from 1985 which use the 1.7-litre Renault engine, offering much better performance, while the 2-litre cars, especially the fuel-injected versions, are good for towing, if thirsty. Power steering came as standard on GLT and GLE specification models from late 1987.

AVOID Variomatics, which take a lot of getting used to and can be expensive to keep going as the system's drive belts are known to wear and even snap. The 343 and 345 automatics in particular are slow. Cars without power steering can be a handful for town driving and parking.

△ **SAFETY** As you would expect, the 300 does well in the Department of Transport safety ratings, even when compared to more modern cars. It rates above average, on a par with the VW Golf and Honda Civic, and ahead of the Toyota Corolla, Renault 19, and Fiat Tipo.

INSURANCE Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1989 1.4-litre 340 costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims, £98 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with a year's no claims living in south London, pays £554, a similar female £458.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (Prices include VAT): Clutch assembly £210; full exhaust £95; front damper £165; rear damper £100; front brakepads £60; alternator £125; starter motor £100.

£ **PRICES** Expect to pay £1,200 for a 1988 340 F-reg 1.4-litre three-door hatch, £1,700 for a 1989 G-reg 340 1.4-litre three-door hatch automatic, £1,600 for a 1988 E-reg 340 GL 1.4-five door, £1,900 for a 1989 G-reg 1.7-litre five-door, £2,300 for a 1989 F-reg 360 GLT 2-litre four door, and £2,850 for a 1989 F-reg 360 GLE 2-litre five-door.

OVERALL A sensible car, the 300 represents good value for money second-hand. Previous owners keen to maintain Volvo's Lifetime Warranty will have had to have the car properly serviced at a franchised garage. Let down by an uninspiring ride, it is nevertheless comfortable, but the saloon in particular is less than eye-catching.

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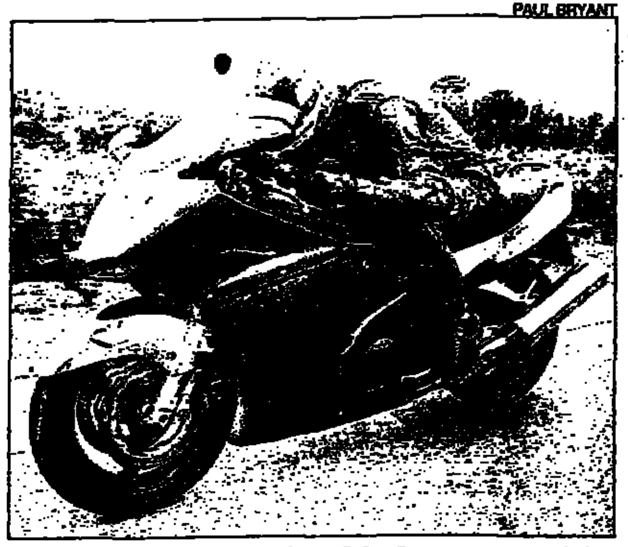
Smooth Blackbird and wild Valkyrie

Roland Brown finds preconceptions of Honda's new flagship bikes off target

PAUL BRYANT



Blackbird: latest incarnation of the Japanese superbike

It is difficult to imagine a more diverse pair of motorbikes than Honda's new flagships. The CBR1100XX Super Blackbird is the latest incarnation of the *traditional Japanese super*bike, complete with four-cylinder engine, aerodynamic bodywork and fearsome performance. In contrast, the F6C is a huge, six-cylinder cruiser with lots of chrome, and armchair riding position.

Anyone contemplating buying a big Honda should have no difficulty deciding which to choose, one might imagine. Serious motorcyclists would surely look no further than the rapid and refined CBR, leaving the overweight F6C, built mainly for the American market, to those more interested in a high profile than high performance. But riding them shows such preconceptions to be wide of the mark.

There is no doubt that speed addicts will be irresistibly drawn to CBR1100XX. The Super Blackbird is powered by an 1137cc, 16-valve in-line four engine that produces no less than 162bhp. Combined with wind-cheating fairing, this gives the Blackbird a top speed of over 175mph, edging it ahead of Kawasaki's ZZ-R1100 to the title of world's fastest production bike.

The Blackbird is a very smooth and refined machine, *and in many respects works* well as a sporty yet practical superbike. Like any Honda it is docile and manageable at low revs. Above 5,000rpm the engine's wild side takes over, hurling the bike forward with breathtaking acceleration.

By superbike standards the CBR1100XX is quite heavy, at 223kg, but its rigid aluminium frame and excellent suspension combine to give light steering, stable handling and a comfortable ride. I was not particularly impressed by Honda's Dual-CBS braking system, which applies balanced force to front and rear discs when either the hand lever or foot pedal is activated. Although powerful, the system gives a rather vague feel at the hand level.

The mirrors are clear and the seat is broad and well-padded. But although the handlebars pull the rider forward to give a fairly upright and roomy riding position, being tall, I found that the low screen generated annoying wind turbulence. Along with the curiously anonymous styling — hardly enlivened by colour options of grey, black or dark red — the result was a bike less exciting to ride than its spine-tingling specification had led me to expect.

PHIL MASTERS

What the Americans call the Valkyrie is Honda's attempt to build the world's first high-performance cruiser, offering a huge six-cylinders with lots of chrome and armchair riding position

Precisely the opposite was true of the considerably less streamlined F6C, whose vast size, excessive weight and gaudy styling suggested a two-wheeled burger bar rather than a serious motorcycle. The F6C is built in America (where it is known, rather more imaginatively, as the Valkyrie) and is Honda's attempt to build the world's first high-performance cruiser.

Its engine is based on the 1520cc, flat-six unit from Honda's legendary Gold Wing giant tourer. Although tuned slightly to produce a maximum of 100bhp, the shaft-drive motor remains hugely flexible. The F6C accelerates smoothly and strongly from very low revs and purrs along effortlessly at 70mph with less than 3,000rpm showing on its white-faced tachometer.

Such flexibility makes the Honda, with its raised handlebars, exposed riding position and forward-set footrests, a very pleasant bike for gentle cruising.

You barely need to use the five-speed gearbox in normal use; just flick into top, sit back and enjoy the ride. But the big bike will go faster if you ask it, stretching your arms as it heads towards a top speed of over 120mph.

Despite the F6C's low seat, you're aware of every one of its 310kg at a standstill. But the Honda feels much lighter on the move, and its suspension is good enough to allow spirited cornering. Unlike many cruisers, the F6C also has excellent brakes and tyres.

Riders seeking performance or with long distances to cover would still be better off on the Super Blackbird which, at £9,495, is priced competitively against its main Japanese rivals. But despite its awesome 175mph top speed, the CBR1100XX feels bland alongside the F6C. At £11,950, the big cruiser is expensive, but its unique character, mighty engine and improbable agility make for a much more entertaining ride.

BLACKBIRD

Engine: Four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1137cc produces 162bhp at 10,000rpm.

Transmission: Six-speed gearbox. Chain final drive.

Performance: Max speed 178mph, 0-60mph in 2.6 seconds.

Price: £9,495.

Insurance group: 16 (with Norwich Union).

VALKYRIE

Engine: Six-cylinder. 12-valve, 1520cc produces 100bhp at 6000rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed gearbox. Shaft final drive.

Performance: Maximum speed 128mph, 0-60mph in 3.4 seconds.

Price: £11,950.

Insurance group: 14 (with Norwich Union).

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BMW has produced a stylish new generation of its acclaimed 5 Series saloon range, says **Vaughan Freeman**

Touring with BMW: The firm is modest to the point of apologetic about load-carrying powers, preferring to stress performance, handling, road-holding and, vitally, image and prestige

Touring the wide open spaces

A tailor-made suit with large, elegant pockets is how BMW describes its all-new 5 Series touring, but few *suits have pockets large enough to* take a 6ft bed.

Despite such a carrying capacity, BMW insists its touring (small t only) is emphatically not an estate car. Instead, it is an extended, more practical version of its acclaimed 5 *Series saloon. but happens to com*pete in the estate car sector.

Indeed. BMW says that for all the touring's shopping. wine and furniture-carrying and trailer hauling capacity, its load-lugging ability is not even the decisive factor behind its *customers buying the touring rather* than the saloon. Nor will its customers be parting with *substantial* amounts of money (from £27,000 up to £44.420) just because the touring is trendy. It is. concedes the company. new, stylish and cleverly designed — *but not trendy.*

Klaus Faust. BMW chassis specialist, says: "The BMW touring is a BMW saloon, offering an even wider range of practical benefits and values. Within our touring concept as a *whole, the transport capacity for the* car is a significant, but not the only decisive factor. What counts most is design, dynamic performance, motoring comfort and value."

The Bavarian car firm is modest to the point of apologetic about the *touring's load-carrying powers, pre*ferring instead to play the BMW's longest and strongest suit of sporting performance, superb handling and road-holding, as well as, vitally, the marque's image and prestige.

The previous 5 Series touring sold 115,000 *units between 1992 and 1996*, with the larger car accounting for a quarter of all the 5 Series cars sold. The new car is identical to the saloon all the way back to the central B pillar, where it melts stylishly into the non-estate rear that is only about 1in longer *than the saloon that spawned it.*

Should the touring buyer actually want to use the car as an estate, the load area can take objects up to 6ft 1in long. An ingenious loading surface which pulls out 2.4ins beyond the rear bumper allows heavy objects weighing up to 170lbs to be loaded on *to it. The moveable floor then slides* back into the car without any risk of slipped disc or pulled muscle. Crucially, thanks to a redesign of the rear suspension, the load area is now completely flat. The car comes with self-levelling automatic pneumatic *suspension as standard, so that it* always rides level.

On the move, the 2.5-litre turbodiesel is supremely flexible. The five-speed manual gearbox seems an overdesigned luxury since the temptation is to get by with just third and *fifth gears, so versatile is the engine.* On the move it is as quiet as the very quiet BMW petrol cars. This is a sophisticated diesel engine that puts the lie to all the long-held prejudices about noisy, rough diesels.

But it is the 2.8-litre petrol cars that truly lend credence to BMW's claim that they produce sporting cars for the driving enthusiast. The handling is wonderful, sure and confidence-boosting. Over long, winding German roads the car swept on without *demur, and on dry, empty auto*bahns, speeds of well over 120mph could be maintained without raising the heartbeat.

The 525 tds and 528i SE (which sells from £32,496 on the road) go on sale on April 17, and BMW is clearly *confident that would-be onwers will* be happy to pay a price premium of at least £1,500 for the touring over the saloon. Further developments of the touring range will arrive in May with the launch of the 520i and 523i, and in August the £44,420 range-topping *540i goes on sale.*

The 5 Series saloon has already been acclaimed as one of the best-ever cars of its kind; the touring is a worthy addition to the range. Stylish, brilliantly engineered — and a worry for Audi, Mercedes and Volvo.

BMW 525 TOURING

Engine: *2.5-litre, six-*cylinder electronic diesel injection with turbo charger and intercooler.

Transmission: Five-speed *manual (auto £1,170 option).*

Performance: 143bhp at 4600rpm. 0-60mph in 10.4 seconds. Top speed 130mph.

Economy: (combined Euro *figure) 35.8mpg.*

Equipment: Central locking, immobiliser and transponder in key, dual airbags plus side impact *airbags for front seat* occupants, power steering, anti-lock braking and traction control all standard.

Price: £27,755 (SE touring £29,155).

Name that tune and your car's CD will play it

Honda's new Civic lets you voice your choice, reports **Stuart Birch**

Just say the word and the sound of Bach, Brahms or the Beatles will fill the *interior* of the Honda Civic 5-door.

Honda *UK is claiming* a world first by putting a voice-activated CD autochanger on its new car options list. Call up Oasis, and in precisely 8.9 seconds they will be pulsing through the speakers.

The system, which adds about £250 to a standard auto*changer, is not a gimmick,* says Pioneer, who have designed and produced it. "It's the first of its kind in the world," says Gareth Gibbard, the company's UK automotive sales *mananger.* "We believe it represents a substantial contribution to reducing driver workload, and so will help to make driving safer."

Just speak to the speakers

A small micro*phone like that* used for a hands-free *telephone* is placed on the sun visor or door pillar and the driver simply states the com*poser, orchestra or singer of* choice. For good measure, Honda is also offering the latest 50 CD autochanger with the improved Civic range, although the voice activation system will also operate with *six or 12-disc systems.*

But all this is just a beginning. Pioneer is already working on follow-up versions that will allow individual track selection, and later this year it is likely that voice activation *will also operate new-genera*tion radios. "It will be possible to request station changes, volume variation and even added bass or treble," says Gibbard.

He believes other car manu*facturers may* also offer Pioneer's CD voice activation system on *new models. It will* soon be available as an after-market fit in Europe. *The system is simple to use:* the *driver programs it by speak*ing *into the* microphone, giving *names* to the CDs that have been *loaded. The system* will then accept the command; if it does not, a shorter *title* must be used.

If a *driver develops* a cold and the system has difficulty understanding, there is a *manual selection* facility and the operation is multi-lingual, able to cope *with English,* French, German and Japanese.

"Voice activation for CDs has been available as an after-market item *in Japan since the* end of last year, but we believe Honda's decision to put it on the new car options list for the Civic is unique," Gibbard *adds.*

As for the new Civic, announced today, it has been given a lot of *changes;* Honda UK directior Ken Keir says he believes buyers need more choice. *The* 1.5i model gets added power and is a delight to drive; there is a luxurious 1.6 ES with air-conditioning and leather up*holstery and a new range*-topper, the near-140mph 1.8 VTi.

The taut and agile VTi s very quick, with an engine rev limt of 8,000. But is a shade noisy when cruising quickly and I would *have* liked a sixth gear. Of course, fitted with the Pioneer system, *I could just* say "Madonna" and she would be there in 8.9 seconds, eclipsing all mechanical noise with the strains of *Evita.*

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